

THE ELECTRICAL



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of the
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

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THE DENVER CONVENTION AND THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

BY SAMUEL GOMPERS.

AT the recent Denver convention, as is the custom at all conventions of the American Federation of Labor, the reports of officers are referred to appropriate committees for consideration, review, and report. The delegates to the convention consider the reports and the recommendations of the committees giving every subject the requisite consideration and finally determining upon the acceptance, rejection, or modification of such reports.

For this issue we will content ourselves with calling attention to the report which the president submitted to the Denver convention, the consideration given it by the appropriate committees, and the action taken by the convention.

In future issues of the American Federationist, we shall endeavor to present other reports of officers and important action of committees and of the convention.

Recognizing the general interest in the subjects discussed in the president's report, we publish herewith the most important features of the deliberations of the convention on this report. The convention devoted the greater part of two days to this discussion, and each subject was considered and disposed of separately.

* * * * *

The men and women of organized labor, thinkers, and friends in all walks of life, will read with interest the verdict of the highest tribunal in the American labor movement on the president's action in the past year. Those who have assumed an indifferent or antagonistic position to labor's activities are especially invited to study carefully the hearty endorsement which the labor movement of the United States rendered upon the manner in which the president of the American Federation of Labor met the all-absorbing and vitally interesting questions which have arisen within the past few years. The vicious and unwarranted attacks from the exalted, and others not so exalted, the attempt to direct, control,

and subordinate the labor movement of the United States, other than by the men of labor themselves, has been rebuked by the Denver convention. This convention, where nearly 400 delegates assembled, elected by their fellow-workers to represent the great rank and file of the labor movement of our country, by practically unanimous sentiment, voice, and vote, emphatically reiterated its determination to energetically continue in the work of abolishing the wrongs and injustices which labor has had to bear, and to attain the rights and the freedom to which the workers are justly entitled.

Since the formation of our Federation in 1881, it has been our privilege to be in attendance at the conventions, and it is no reflection upon any of its predecessors to say that never was any convention so clear from pettiness, carping criticism, or personal differences as the recent Denver convention. The officers and delegates approached the various problems with serious mind and high standards of conduct. The discussions were pitched in a lofty and harmonious key. The debates were pointed, logical, and eloquent. The spirit actuating the convention was that of united fraternity and solidarity. There was expressed the determination to organize the yet unorganized, to bring into even greater harmony the united workers, in fine to establish and maintain the greatest general federated labor movement of our time.

Accentuating the dominancy of the economic movement of labor, the convention emphatically declared that no field of activity shall be narrowed or denied which will tend to realize the highest aspirations of the toilers of our continent, not only for themselves in our day, but for the whole people, for all time to come.

The convention closed in high spirits, delegates were gratified with results and expressed themselves in closest accord, fealty, and loyalty to the great cause of the organized labor movement of our time.

ACCIDENTS IN ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES.

(From Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor,
Department of Commerce and Labor.)

THE electrical industries of the United States have made such extraordinary progress during recent years that central electric light and power stations alone in 1902 gave employment to 6,996 salaried officials and clerks and 23,330 wage-earners, all more or less exposed to the risk of accidental death and injury as the result of direct or alternating electrical currents. The accident risk varies naturally very considerably according to occupations, the most important of which are those of foremen, inspectors, engineers, firemen, dynamo and switchboard men, linemen, mechanics, and lamp trimmers. A large amount of useful information regarding central light and power stations has been published in the form of a special report by the Bureau of the Census in 1905. The accident statistics for the State of New York for the five years ending with 1905 return 1,923 recorded casualties, of which only 16, or 0.8 per cent, were fatal. Of the total number of accidents 82.3 per cent caused temporary disablement and 16.8 per cent permanent disablement. Details of the accident frequency and degree of injury in this industry are set forth in the following table:

Number and per cent of accidents in electrical industries in New York State by degree of injury, for the period 1901 to 1905:

[Compiled from the annual reports of the New York Bureau of Factory Inspection, 1901 to 1905.]

Degree of accidental injury	Accidents reported	
	Num-ber	Per cent
Temporary disablement:		
Lacerations	347	18.0
Burns	210	10.9
Cuts, etc	409	21.3
Bruises	328	17.1
Sprains and dislocations	60	3.1
Fractures	86	4.5
Other injuries	143	7.4
Total, temporary disablement ..	1,583	82.3
Permanent disablement:		
Partial or complete loss of eyes ..	7	.4
Partial or complete loss of limbs ..	4	.2
Partial or complete loss of hands or feet	10	.5
Internal injuries	7	.4
Other injuries	294	15.3
Total, permanent disablement ..	322	16.8
Degree of injury not stated	2	.1
Fatal accidents	16	.8
Total accidents of all degrees ..	1,923	100.0

ACCIDENT LIABILITY OF ELECTRICIANS AND LINEMEN.

These statistics, however, have only a very limited bearing upon the electrical industry as a whole, pertaining, as they probably do, chiefly to the manufacture of electrical machinery, apparatus, and supplies, rather than to exposure in electric light and power stations. In the manufacture of electrical machinery, etc., more than 60,000 wage-earners are employed, and in addition more than 10,000 salaried officials, clerks, etc., who, however, are much less seriously exposed to the danger of electrical accident than men in responsible positions in central light and power plants. The statistics also have no reference to the accident liability of men employed on electric railways. The Prudential Insurance Company of America, at the Jamestown Exposition, exhibited the results of its industrial mortality experience for the period of 1897 to 1906 for certain well-defined groups of persons employed in the electrical industry. According to this experience, out of 645 deaths of electricians, 95, or 14.7 per cent, were from accidents, but the proportionate mortality was highest at ages 25 to 34, when 19.1 per cent of the deaths from all causes were from accidents, decreasing to 15.4 per cent at ages 25 to 34, to 11 per cent at ages 35 to 44, and to 7.8 per cent at ages 45 to 54. Among electric linemen there occurred 240 deaths during the period mentioned, of which 112, or 46.7 per cent, were from accidents. At ages 15 to 24 the proportionate mortality from accidents was 55.3 per cent of the mortality from all causes, increasing to 56.8 per cent at ages 25 to 34, and decreasing to 38.2 per cent at ages 35 to 44, and to 30 per cent at ages 45 to 54. Somewhat similar are the results of the analysis of the mortality data for Rhode Island for the ten years ending with 1906, during which period there were recorded in that state 35 deaths of electricians, of which 6, or 17.1 per cent, were from accidents, while there occurred 13 deaths among linemen, of which 9, or 69.2 per cent, were from accidents.

The details of the published insurance mortality experience with this class of labor are set forth in the following two tables, which show the number of deaths from all causes at each period of life and the number of deaths from accidents and the resulting percentage of accident frequency at each decennial group of ages or the proportionate accident mortality as determined by this method.

Number of deaths from accidents compared with number of deaths from all

causes among electricians, by age groups, for the period 1897 to 1906:

[From mortality experience of an industrial insurance company.]

Age at death	Deaths from all causes	Deaths from accidents	
		Number	Per cent of deaths from all causes
15 to 24 years	199	38	19.1
25 to 34 years	240	37	15.4
35 to 44 years	127	14	11.0
45 to 54 years	64	5	7.8
55 to 64 years	12	1	8.3
65 years or over	3
Total	645	95	14.7

Number of deaths from accidents compared with number of deaths from all causes among electric linemen, by age groups, for the period 1897 to 1906.

[From mortality experience of an industrial insurance company.]

Age at death	Deaths from all causes	Deaths from accidents	
		Number	Per cent of deaths from all causes
15 to 24 years	47	26	55.3
25 to 34 years	95	54	56.8
35 to 44 years	68	26	38.2
45 to 54 years	20	6	30.0
55 to 64 years	8
65 years or over	2
Total	240	112	46.7

ELECTRICAL ACCIDENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

In Great Britain during the four years ending with 1903 there were recorded 174 electrical accidents, of which 37, or 21.3 per cent, were fatal. The subject of electrical accident risk has been discussed at considerable length in Oliver's *Dangerous Trades*, in a separate chapter on electrical generating works, in which reference is made to a parliamentary report of 1897 of a departmental committee on electrical generating works, which contains a large amount of extremely useful and suggestive information. Much useful information is also contained in the annual reports of the Massachusetts Gas and Electric Light Commission. The subject is also discussed at some length in Calder's treatise on "The Prevention of Factory Accidents," from which are briefly quoted the following remarks:

"The special risk from electric shock in connection with the generation and distribution of electricity in factories, workshops, and other premises is one which has increased with the progress in the use of high pressure. A dangerous and possibly fatal shock may be sus-

tained by contact between two portions of the human body or even clothing and two conductors differing in pressure by 700 to 1,200 volts, according to the perfection of the contact. An insulated person safely touching highly charged metal and at the same time passing any conductor to another uninsulated person, or even touching the latter or an earthed conductor, may cause a fatal or severe shock. The metal of the dynamos, the switchboard and connections, the high pressure mains, transformers, and series arc lamps is material from the touching of which under the above conditions dangerous shock would result. The ordinary fencing may be relied upon for protecting moving parts of electrical generating machinery in the case of direct currents below a voltage of 700 and of alternate currents less than 350 volts pressure. All installations with higher voltages should be regarded as high pressure, and the following extra precautions should be adopted in view of the risk from snock."*

There are few employments which require more serious attention to the risk of accidental injuries than the electrical industries, and as emphasized by the statistics previously quoted, the risk is particularly great in the employment of linemen, where, however, the electrical hazard is increased by the liability to serious falls in the climbing of poles and connecting of wires while at a considerable height above the ground.

*The Prevention of Factory Accidents, by John Calder, p. 114.

FAITH IS BEST.

Like resistless tides forever
In continual ebb and flow,
Doubting, discontented spirits—
Human waves beat to and fro;
Groping for a hidden knowledge.
Lives that might have been sublime
Toss upon a submerged causeway,
Wrecked upon the shores of time.

Questioning the untried future
Just across the boundary line,
Whence no traveler returning
Ere hath given us a sign;
Tempest swept, and doubting mortals,
Doubt no longer, faith is best,
Trust the Infinite nor question—
Faith alone gives perfect rest.

Though the mysterious eternal
Hide behind a curtain dim,
Still the power Supreme is reigning.
We may leave it all to Him;
Thirsting for the truth is futile,
Search will prove a baffled quest,
Doubt is only weak and human—
Simple, childlike faith is best.

MARGARET SCOTT HALL.

Kirkwood, Ga.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS.

THE subject of accidents to workingmen is discussed in Bulletin No. 78 of the Bureau of Labor, Department of Commerce and Labor, by Frederick L. Hoffman.

The importance of this subject is at once apparent when it is considered that between 30,000 and 35,000 workmen lose their lives in accidents in the course of their employment in this country during a year.

By means of statistics from official sources and from insurance experience, Mr. Hoffman clearly shows the high accident liability to which American workmen are subject. Census reports covering the years 1900 to 1906 show that out of over 1,000,000 deaths of males, more than 9 per cent were due to accident. A large proportion of these deaths are due to causes more or less related to the occupations of the injured persons.

The liability of the workman to accidental injury or death is brought out in this discussion for important occupations under a broad classification in five general groups, viz.: factories and workshops, electrical industries, mines and quarries, transportation by rail, and transportation by water.

Of those employed in factories and workshops probably the most exposed class are the workers in iron and steel. Reports of 8,456 accidents to this class of workmen during the years 1901 to 1905 show that 4.1 per cent of the accidents to men employed in rolling mills resulted fatally.

Among nut and bolt workers in Pennsylvania the returns of the chief factory inspector show the fatal accident rate during ten years to have been 5.4 per 1,000, and in miscellaneous steel and iron work 4.3 per 1,000.

According to the industrial insurance experience the fatal accident rate of electricians and of electric linemen is excessive. Of 645 deaths of electricians 14.7 per cent and of 240 deaths of linemen 46.7 per cent were due to accidents.

In the anthracite mines of Pennsylvania the state inspectors have found that during ten years there have averaged annually 3.18 fatal accidents for every 1,000 men employed, and the rate is even higher than this for certain specific occupations in the mines. That this is excessive is shown by comparison with the death rate from accident of 1.29 per 1,000 in the British coal mines.

The reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission have shown that during ten years 16,363 railway trainmen lost their lives in accidents. This is equivalent to 7.46 deaths per 1,000 employees.

Of 505 deaths of sailors occurring in the experience of an industrial insurance company, 17.6 per cent were due to accidents.

To the workingman himself there is no more important problem than the most effective protection of his life and health against the accident risk inherent in, or incidental to, the occupation in which he is employed. Much that could be done for his protection is still neglected, though many important and far-reaching improvements have been introduced in factory practice during the last decade. Accurate reports of accidents alone can furnish a reasonable basis for reform. The possibilities for successful accident prevention have been clearly demonstrated in the experience of foreign countries.

Granting that the underlying conditions in European countries are often quite different, and that many of our industrial accidents may be the result of ignorance, reckless indifference, or carelessness, the fact remains that an immense amount of human life is wasted and a vast amount of injury is done to health and strength, with resulting physical impairment, which has a very considerable economic value to the nation as a whole. If, for illustration, the accident liability of employees in coal mines in the United States were reduced from 3.10 per 1,000, which was the average annual rate for the period 1897-1906, to 1.29 per 1,000, the average rate in the United Kingdom for the same period, the annual saving in human life would be 915. If the rate of casualties of railway employees in this country were reduced from 2.50 per 1,000, which was the average annual rate for 1897-1906, to 0.98 per 1,000, the average for the German Empire for the same period, the annual saving would be 1,735 valuable human lives.

Of the more than 30,000 wage-earners killed by accidents in the course of a year it should not be impossible to save at least one-third and perhaps one-half by intelligent and rational methods of factory inspection, legislation and control. In addition there were approximately not much less than two million non-fatal accidents, that not only involve a vast amount of human suffering and sorrow, but materially curtail the normal longevity among those exposed to the often needless risk of industrial casualties.

"John!" exclaimed his wife, excitedly, "I'm sure there are burglars down stairs."

"Sorry, dear," replied John, "but I'm too sleepy to get dressed and receive company tonight."—Detroit Free Press.

ELEVATING THE PRINTERS' CRAFT.

Typographical Union Gives Novel and Practical Aid to Industrial Efficiency.

While educators are advocating industrial education and philanthropists are loosening the purse strings to help the educators, the International Typographical Union has inaugurated a comprehensive system of supplemental trade education. It is within the reach of every printer and is designed to aid all those who follow the "art preservative of all arts" for a livelihood. Owing to the impossibility of establishing a school in every town, the Union adopted the correspondence system which is furnished at approximately cost price—\$20, payable on easy terms. In order to encourage studiousness in the craft, the International Union will give a prize or rebate of \$5 to every student who perseveres and completes the course of thirty-seven lessons. These prizes do not go to the unusually proficient, but to all who show a desire to learn and are of ordinary capacity. Employers may supplement the Union's prize by offering additional inducements to their employees to take the course, some having promised to defray all expenses incurred by their employees. The feature of the course is not so much the information imparted by the lessons, as the benefit that will flow from criticisms of the student's work, which will receive personal attention from the experts at headquarters. This connection does not cease when the lessons are ended. The winner of a scholarship is entitled to consult the experts on technical questions as long as he remains at the trade, be that five or fifty years.

The object of the course is to give printers an opportunity to learn those things in connection with their business which is prevented by the specialization of industry. It is hoped that this will

make it possible for them to become more proficient than they could under the old apprenticeship system, the Union being desirous of expanding the field of the printer. More and more is the work of the designer observable in printed matter in the shape of appropriate decorations and lettering. To a very great extent, this is being done under the supervision of commercial artists. Some printers with a natural aptitude for such work have been very successful at it. Having two men do what one might do is not only an economic waste, but it produces comparatively unsatisfactory results. The work being craftsmanship rather than art, it can be mastered by the average printer, and the Union wishes to aid in this natural expansion of the trade. While other and older branches will not be neglected in the course, the new element will be featured, as the Union is of the opinion that it will thereby not only be giving an uplift to the art preservative, but opening up new avenues of lucrative employment for its members. That this may be done most efficiently, the Union has secured the services of art instructors and schools of design who will bend their energies toward simplifying those art principles which the printer may utilize. This information is in the ordinary art course, but buried in a mass of matter that is confusing to the printer-student who has the time and inclination to pick it out. To collate all the information that is beneficial and give it wide circulation is the purpose of the course. The I. T. U. Commission, 120 Sherman street, Chicago, Ill., will furnish any printer with all additional information on receipt of name and address.

THE NON-UNION PARADISE.

NOT long ago a great man, representing a great company who practically controlled one of the necessities of business, concluded that the poor working man in the employ of the builders was being grossly imposed upon by other workmen who had formed themselves in their blindness into what is known as a labor union. He arrived at this conclusion from the view of the facts as follows: This hideous thing called the

labor union took away from the poor working man sometimes as much as \$1.00 per month of his hard earned cash and, what is worse, insisted that he do a day's work in eight hours and further insisted on him getting about a dollar a day more than what he had been receiving in former times. This, of course was another hardship on the man as with the dollar extra he usually purchased such useless things as good clothing for him-

self and family, which of course made his children feel at home even in the society of the offspring of the employer, so much so that they dared to sit in the same school room with them and, in some instances, the wife and children of the workingman even dared to go to the same church and worship the same God as the great man apparently worshipped, which of course was bad for any youngster who later must be made to bow to the lash of the master, for it gave them the erroneous idea that master and man were made of the same clay and that the man had what he pleased to term his rights and further the thing called a union, which ground out of the workingman this mighty dollar per month, had a representative and mighty ogre that was called a business agent, but who worked grievously indeed, constantly spying on the poor workingman and raising a fuss if the poor workingman took advantage of the kind employer's offer of ten or twelve hours in which to earn his two or three dollars, even insisting on the poor man wearying himself carrying home more money if he worked these long hours, and of course the extra money sometimes led the workingman out of the straight and narrow path into dissipation. "Yea, verily," saith this employer, "the poor man is indeed harrassed and is paying dearly for his one simple mistake—that of joining the union." But he arose and said within himself, "I will be the emancipator. I will provide the means to allow this poor downtrodden creature to once more be a man who may take all the hours he wishes and more to do a day's work in, for I love my employees and wish to see them free agents and independent Americans who can work from sun to sun (if they wish it or not), and not be burdened with a lot of filthy lucre at the end of the week's hard labor." So saying, he hid himself away from the busy city (of Chicago), where the business agent is ever at large seeking whom he may devour and the odor of the labor union is strong indeed. All seven miles did he go and perhaps more and he came to a wide plain joining another wide plain and the C. & A., whereupon he did raise his hands and gave tongue: "Here will I raise a mighty altar to the great powers that sent me and here likewise will I show the world that at least one brave heart beats for the freedom of the poor victims of this modern juggernaut—the labor union." So he proclaimed in the highways and byways that all men who would come under him would find work and plenty of it without let or hindrance from any business agent. So from far and near (mostly far) sent the free and independent men to work, and he did build him a wooden wall of great height and on top thereof did he put wires with many

barbs, so close that no man could go between them, even unto skinny Madden. And at the openings of the wall of this modern Jerusalem did he place bold and brave men with irons that shoot unto death in their hands. For sayeth he, "The business agent is indeed a wily cuss." And the wall was many cubits long in one direction and still more in the other, and finding that the wall was good to keep men out, he spake within himself thus: "What will keep out the dread wolf (the business agent) will surely keep within the sheep of which I am the shepherd." And he raised up his voice and spake unto them, giving them laws, saying: First, "I am the good boss and the voice of others shall not be heeded by any amongst you." Second, "Even as ye shall make of cobs and other refuse food good enough for workingmen to buy hereafter, so shall ye buy food within the gates and for such food shall ye pay enough." Third, "Far be vanity from any of ye, so ye shall wear the clounes which we have provided. It is well, as other prisoners have made them, that they should be worn within the closed gates and for this great privilege ye shall be charged not more than thrice the cost of the same raiment elsewhere." Fourth, "It is well that man should sleep enough so that he may be energetic at his work and render full measure thereof, so, if they procure passes for a few hours to mingle with the ungodly without the gates, shall return to the virtuous couches we have provided not later than 10 p. m. or suffer the law." Fifth, "It is not well that filthy lucre should corrupt ye, therefore we, the masters, will in the greatness of our hearts bear all the corruptness from this source, and, that this law be kept, ye shall all of ye remain in the debt of him who brought ye here." Sixth, "To the end that this may be your place of abode, it is written that no man shall leave while such debt lasts on pain of being punished, even until death by the irons that wound grievously in the hands of our trusted gate-keepers and guards." And having delivered himself of these wise laws for the welfare of the inmates, he cast about him for some title by which the great busy hive should be known amongst men and gazing upon the citadel, he spake thus: "All is well with thee. The storms of unionism shall beat themselves out on the battlements and the noise of the strike thou shalt know not. Therefore thou shalt be called Argo, the city of corn, where all things (but whiskey) shall be made of corn, corn stalks, cobs and all." But, alas! Some of the inmates, being ungrateful for being done good, braving the anger of the guards and the danger of the irons escaped and, meeting with men, told a grievous tale, whereupon they with others came before him, who was a

judge amongst men at that time, and did not suffer otherwise than from the business state that they were nigh unto being forced into eternity by the exceeding kindness of this great (?) man and that they were sore, so that men called "scab," which is a covering of sore, when they passed. Whereupon he, who judged at that time, did cause to be written a paper that the great man should answer the charge which in that time, for want of other name, they called peonage. And the benefactor of mankind was great afraid and murmured within himself: "Such is the reward of kindness admin-

agent. Now as this great evil come upon me when my intent was only to do mankind good, but as my master payeth not the \$29,000,000.00, so will I, too, seek other judges of the law and perhaps the great evil that has come upon me will pass away, for I like not the odor of the jail for myself, even though I have for others. I feel within me that the arm of the obnoxious labor union is long indeed. Yea, verily, I am come to believe I have been monkeying with the buzz saw."

J. P. N.

WHY HE USES THE UNION LABEL.

An opponent to the union label wrote a Philadelphia business man protesting against the appearance of the label on the business man's printed matter, and asked why the label was used. Among other things, the business man said: "I can remember when, in my boyhood days, little boys and girls, from 6 years of age trudged through snow and mud, winter and summer, to twelve hours of toil in the mills of Lawrence, Lowell and Fall River, Massachusetts. When women who were employed in the mills or factories were subjected to the grossest familiarity upon the part of sensual men. When there were no private dressing rooms and practically no separation of the sexes in any of the toilet arrangements. When all the influences of old and young were to promote immorality. When there was no protection to employees at dangerous occupations, for the safety of life and limb. When there was no mining inspection or factory inspection. And I have been associated in a practical way in the development of labor legislation, so called, which has covered all the points referred to, as well as to the system of sweat shops and the employment of mere babies under unhealthy conditions at laborious toil, making the very cradle a part of the mechanism of profit to the employer. I desire to say, upon the evidence written in every line of remedial legislation, that union labor has been the great instrumentality of reform. I do not remember in all my experience, which has covered such legislation in several states, that manufacturers' associations, or associations of employers in any industry or general reform organizations, have been prominent in their demands for the application remedies. It has always been the labor unions that have knocked at the doors of legislative halls. They have imperatively demanded recognition. They have abolished to a great extent child labor. They have protected the employ-

ers in every industry against injustice and brutality, and have almost transformed labor conditions throughout the country.

"I realize that in the progress of reform there have been hardships, injustices, and, to a certain extent, a limitation of contract and perhaps of personal liberty, but this is inevitable, and in the aggregate the injustices are insignificant compared with the great good that has resulted. So far as non-union labor is concerned, it has participated in all these benefits, in every reduction of hours, in every increase of pay, all the improved conditions, and at the same time has been a menace to the success of every reform because it has been the dependence of those whose greed disregards every impulse of humanity, and every principle of righteousness. Non-union labor is like the mendicant on the street corner, with hat in hand, receiving the dole of benefit bestowed upon labor universally by the organized unions. I want to say farther that in improving conditions, that in making industrial life more humane, in securing the maximum of good and the minimum of evil, union labor has been a protector of those employers whose sense of justice exceeds their love of gain. Under this state of facts without further elaboration, I assert that under no circumstances would I knowingly patronize non-union institutions of any kind, for fear that I hinder the progress of labor and promote a return to the conditions where brutal greed would destroy the good that has been secured through years of hardship and concentrated effort. As to the efficiency of the work, in my wide experience I have discovered that the product of union labor is, on the average, superior to that of non-union labor, and for merely business reasons and excellence of product I would prefer to patronize unionized institutions. This is why I use the union label."

FORESTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

A National Awakening to the Urgent Need of Our Forest Preservation.

IN the last ten years," says the Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture for 1907, "forestry has advanced in this country from an almost unknown science to a useful growing profession. In that time the number of technically trained foresters has increased from less than a dozen to over 400. Ten years ago there was not a single forest school in the country; now there are several professional forest schools which rank with those of Europe, and a score more with courses in elementary forestry whose usefulness is steadily growing. Forest lands under management have grown from one or two tracts to many, aggregating 7,503,000 acres, scattered through 39 states. The National Forests have increased from 39,000,000 acres, practically unused and unprotected, to 165,000,000 acres, used, guarded, and improved both in productiveness and accessibility. The number of states which have state forests has increased from 1 to 10, and of those which employ trained foresters from none to 11. The membership of forest associations has increased from 3,600 to 15,000. Ten years ago, except for a few of the foremost botanists, European foresters knew more about American forests than did the people of this country. In Europe they were then using preservatives to prolong the service of beech ties, and so adding from twenty to forty years to their life. Here, on the other hand, scarcely a treated tie had been laid, though there are now 60 treating plants, 27 of which treat ties exclusively, and an engineer who recently returned from Europe reports that both in size and mechanical perfection the treating equipment of this country is ahead of any to be found abroad.

"And yet American forestry has only safely passed the experimental stage and got ready to do something. Action, immediate and vigorous, must be taken if the inevitable famine of wood supplies is to be lessened. We are now using as much wood in a single year as grows in three, with only 20 years' supply of virgin growth in sight. Only the application of forest knowledge with wisdom, method, and energy, in the next ten years, can prevent the starving of national industries for lack of wood.

"The woodlot offers an excellent opportunity for the practice of forestry. It is accessible enough to allow of moderate cuttings at frequent intervals, and it may

be protected from trespass and grazing, and from fire, its chief enemy, without an elaborate scheme of defense; then taxation is not a great burden, because the revenue from farm supplies more than meets this item every year, and thus prevents the accumulation of interest. In New England, New York, and Pennsylvania great interest has been taken in planting white pine and other species.

"The application of intensive forestry to large tracts will naturally be of limited extent for some time to come. Closer utilization, the setting of a minimum diameter below which trees shall not be cut, to provide for a second crop, and protection from fire, are conservative measures which are steadily gaining ground. But looking into the future far enough to make provision for a third crop is not yet common, while efforts to bring forest lands to high productive capacity have as yet scarcely been attempted. In wealth of soil and high commercial value of native trees America has a decided advantage over Europe, where intensive forestry is paying well. American corporations and long-time investors, as well as the provident farmer, must go deeper into forestry to reap full reward."

FORESTRY IN THE STATES.

"Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri and Mississippi are better acquainted with their forest resources, by reason of forest surveys conducted in co-operation with the Forest Service. Taxation, now the most difficult problem in state forest work, is receiving thoughtful attention.

"The New York State nurseries, in April and May, 1907, contained 549,450 four-year-old transplants of white pine, Norway pine, Scotch pine, Norway spruce, and European larch, ready for planting. In addition, an importation has been made from Germany to complete an even million trees, to be set out this spring. A crew of 100 men, under the charge of two professional foresters, will do the work. A 10-acre nursery will be established in central New York for propagating stock for free distribution and to furnish shade trees for the good-roads system. A new feature is the creation of a patrol of the Adirondack railroads during the spring months. This contemplates a force of 100 men, distributed along the steep railroad grades and at places in the forest where conditions are the most dangerous. This railroad patrol is entirely separate from the fire-warden

system, the patrols being paid directly from the Albany office. At the end of the year the railroads refund to the state one-half the expense. During the summer of 1907 seed-spot sowing was carried on, and a field experiment station started. Fifteen species of seeds have been planted in various ways. The most hopeful experiment is one in which seed is dropped on the unbroken ground at 5-foot intervals, and the seed at each spot covered with a handful of sand. Western yellow pine seed planted in this way produced trees in nearly every spot. An experiment was made with white pine, by putting a handful of black muck on the unbroken ground, placing a few seeds on the muck, and covering the seed with sand.

"During the past year New Jersey has developed a definite policy. The forest commission is actively working for the betterment of the woodlands of the state, to establish values in forest lands, and to make them continuously productive. The means employed are control of forest fires and instruction of woodlot owners. The state contains numerous forest areas of considerable size, but for the most part the work concerns itself with the intensive management of woodlots for the production of ties and lumber for near-by markets. During the one year of its operation the fire service has succeeded in reducing the acreage burned and the damage done to woodlands to less than one-tenth that of any former year. This has already affected favorably the market price of forest property. The commission has acquired about 11,000 acres of land for State reserves, and will develop the property as demonstration areas and public parks. It recognizes, however, that the private owner has, and will continue to have, the greatest interest in this question, and will therefore devote every effort to make such lands valuable and productive.

"The Pennsylvania department of forestry has during the past year directed most of its attention and energy to the acquiring of new land, the establishing of good nurseries, and the pushing of reforestation work. The state now holds in forest reserve lands about 10 per cent of the area of timberland of the commonwealth. The nursery area has been increased to over 12 acres, and in another year the number of seedlings will be more than doubled. There are at present, in three nurseries, a total number of 2,250,000 seedlings, of which about 8 per cent are hardwoods, the remainder being conifers, mostly white pine. The reserves are being improved, roads are being opened and built in order to make the land accessible and to serve as fire lines. Special attention is paid to the control of forest fires, and losses are very greatly decreasing. Fire-killed timber

is utilized. A successful experiment with small fire-killed timber was made some time ago in the burning of charcoal. A forest academy is maintained directly by the department for the training and education in forestry of young men of the state for work on the forest reserves, and to speak to public schools, teachers' institutes, and farmers' institutes. The school has made wonderful development and has now under construction a new and thoroughly modern red stone building to be used for dormitory and lecture rooms, together with thoroughly equipped laboratories.

"A state forest survey, conducted by the state forester in conjunction with the examination of timber tracts for private owners throughout the state, has awakened new interest in forest preservation in Maryland, and inquiries are met by the publication of circulars which deal with practical state problems. Arrangement has been made for a series of experiments in the preservative treatment of fence posts, to be carried on by the Maryland State Experiment station in co-operation with the forest service. Fence posts of the kinds of wood which grow in commercial quantities in Maryland will be treated by different methods and set on the station grounds, where they will be subject to frequent inspection.

"The West Virginia State Board of Trade has appointed a committee to investigate state forest conditions and recommend to the state legislature the enactment of laws which will promote forest preservation."

The article, from which the above are excerpts, gives a brief summary of recent achievement in forestry in the United States, a list of forest laws passed in 1907, and a directory of state forest laws, forest associations, and forest schools. It has been printed as a separate, and can be had free upon application to the Forester, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

THEY.

Why don't they keep the street a little cleaner?

You ask with deep annoyance not undue,

Why don't they keep the parks a little greener?

(Did you ever stop to think that "they" means you?)

How long will they permit this graft and stealing?

Why don't they see the courts are clean and true?

Why will they wink at crooked public dealing?

(Did you ever stop to think that "they" means you?)

Why don't they stop this miserable child labor?

And wake the S. P. C. A. up a few?

(While thus you gently knock your unknown neighbor,

(Did you ever stop to think that "they" mean you?)

JUDGE SAUNDERS' CHARGE TO THE FEDERAL GRAND JURY.

"THE SHERMAN ANTI-TRUST LAW."

New Orleans, La., Nov. 21, 1908.

The law forbids any contracts, combinations in the form of trusts, or otherwise, or conspiracies, in restraint of interstate or foreign commerce. And the law declares that persons who engage in contracts, or combinations, or conspiracies of that kind, shall be deemed to have committed a crime, and shall be punished as having committed a crime. Wherever capitalists, or carriers, combine to control according to their will and wishes, any portion of interstate or foreign commerce, they are guilty of combining in restraint of trade. The law intends that the trade that passes through any community, that comes into it, or goes out of it, shall be entirely free, that it shall not be subject to any artificial control of capitalists, or laborers, or any persons at all. It must go in the channels and by the instrumentalities which the trade itself finds most advantageous, and any attempts by outsiders to impose conditions on the transaction of interstate or foreign commerce, are regarded by the laws as combinations in restraint of trade, as combinations, or contracts, or agreements, the object and purpose of which is to force trade either to pay a higher tariff than it would otherwise pay, or to submit to conditions to which the trade itself would not voluntarily conform. Sometimes these combinations are by capitalists, or by carriers, sometimes they are by labor associations. Whether they are by capitalists or by labor associations, the law equally forbids them all. For example, the labor in this city has no right to combine, through its associations, to compel the traffic, that passes through this city, to submit to terms and conditions that are dictated by the labor associations. The labor associations have no right to say to the persons who bring commerce through this city, that at some point in the city of New Orleans the commerce shall be handled only by labor associations, or by persons designated by the labor associations, or having a license or permission from the labor associations to handle that commerce. Commerce must be free from the dictation of laborers, as well as from the dictation of capitalists. Any agreement of capitalists, any combination or conspiracy of capitalists, to monopolize interstate or foreign trade, commerce, or to monopolize any portion of interstate or foreign commerce, is likewise in violation of the law. The agreements of capitalists whereby they attempt to exclude certain persons from

the privilege of engaging in certain portions of interstate or foreign trade, are illegal, and the capitalists who engage in these conspiracies, or combinations, are guilty of an offense against the laws of the United States and ought to be punished. Sometimes dealers or business men combine and attempt so to control the supply of business material, or so to affect the conditions under which business is carried on, that dealers who do not come into their association are practically excluded from the privilege of engaging in interstate or foreign commerce. Any association having that object is illegal, and the persons who engage in such associations or combination are guilty of a crime and can be and ought to be punished.

For example, if the dealers in a certain commodity which is handled only in interstate and foreign commerce were to form a combination, and were to agree among themselves that no dealer should be permitted to engage in the business of handling that material unless he joined the association and submitted to the rules of the association and the conditions prescribed by the association, that combination would be illegal, and offenses of that kind are not infrequent. No association, no combination, no contract, is permitted to fix the conditions under which any man may engage in interstate or foreign commerce. That is a matter to be regulated by the laws of this country, and it can not be, in whole or in part, regulated by the laws of any association, or combination, whether of capitalists or laborers, and men or associations, or combinations, which attempt, in any way, to prescribe the conditions under which persons shall be permitted to engage in interstate or foreign commerce, are guilty of usurping governmental powers and are guilty of a crime. And it is for you, gentlemen, to investigate and find out whether there are any associations of that kind operating in New Orleans, it matters not whether those associations are associations of laborers, or whether they are associations or conspiracies of capitalists. Both classes offend. Both classes require constant watching and constant investigation.

Florence—I can't understand why Ethel married Mr. Gunson. He is old enough to be her father.

Lawrence—Yes, but rich enough to be her husband.—Ex.

EDITORIAL.

PETER W. COLLINS.

SPECIAL NOTICE!

The following telegram from President Gompers and Secretary Morrison, of the American Federation of Labor, is self explanatory:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20th, 1909.

MR. PETER W. COLLINS, Secretary, Pierik Bldg., Springfield.

Mr. Reid and his associates repudiated every part of the agreement made at Denver. Refused to discontinue litigation before the courts. Refused to accept the bank designated for the funds. Mr. McNulty and his associates complied with every provision of the agreement. The Executive Council, in the interests of the Electrical Workers of the Brotherhood and of the general labor movement, recognized Mr. McNulty and you as President and Secretary, respectively, of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The Electrical Workers' local unions are urged to recognize you and Mr. McNulty as such bona fide officers of the Brotherhood. All organized labor of America is appealed to to give that same recognition and support.

SAMUEL GOMPERS, Pres't;

FRANK MORRISON, Sec'y,
American Federation of Labor.

LABOR AND CITIZENSHIP.

This country in the next decade will witness a concentrated effort for a civic uplift and civic righteousness unequalled in the history of the nation. From the farm and the city, from the factory and mine, from the hives of industry and the homes of the land will come men—good men, true men, workers in every sense of the word—to aid in making the cause of civic duty a part of the day's work.

The search for the ideal in the affairs of government will become the particular aim of the men of tomorrow, and these men will place in the hearts of their fellows the realization that the rights of one, as the rights of the many, are best conserved and protected by the doing of duty.

No man, in any station of life, can ask for the preservation of his rights and expect to have them maintained who neglects to do his duty or fulfill the obligations imposed by citizenship—the obligation of participation in the affairs of his government in city, in state, and in nation.

This is the ideal now, in the abstract, which will be made practical by the man of the next decade, of bringing home to every man, to every citizen, the obligation of duty; for in these obligations and their simple doing lie the preservation of the rights of citizens, the rights of freemen.

Organized labor has indeed been a factor in the work of the past for civic righteousness. Its work speaks for itself as the future will record with a just and impartial pen. The past has indeed been full of good work of splendid effort and of successful deeds; but into the future and the very near future, will the men of labor look with that discernment so essential to future progress, the progress of civilization and of humankind.

Men are human; they err; they make mistakes; they are led sometimes consciously, other times unconsciously, along devious paths and uncertain ways, not by the beacon of progress and of right but by the wards of selfishness and of gain. The effort of the future will be consistent, well directed effort with every citizen a leader recognizing his responsibility and fearlessly doing his duty.

The result to come from such effort will be estimable, and the community and the people will be the gainers.

See to it, therefore, that your work in the great cause of civic duty is commensurate with your obligations to yourself and to your citizenship and that your work for the common good with others of your kind will aid in the making of a better and greater progress.

When all men realize the importance of an active participation in civil affairs, then will great results be accomplished—results that will add to the value of the nation and aid in the preservation of its institutions.

For these things we should all strive, giving our best thought and effort for their doings, always ready to co-operate with our fellows for the general welfare.

Search as you will the history of nations, their rise and progress, their success and failure, and the lesson to be learned is evident; that success has ever followed where duty was done; that rights were preserved when the obligations of a well expressed public spirit were recognized and fulfilled.

As in the history of the past, so will it be in the future, that right is preserved in the doing of duty.

The desire of personal preferment, at the expense of the many is a selfish and mean trait nourished by the negligence of the many, nourished by the lack of public spirit or a real true citizenship.

We, in our day, enjoy that freedom which so few nations of the past can boast. We today enjoy the blessings of a real liberty and are a part, yes, an essential part, of the government.

Let us preserve it by an unswerving loyalty to duty and a recognition of the responsibilities of our citizenship.

DECISION In imposing sentence on President Gompers, John Mitchell
AGAINST and Secretary Morrison for supposed contempt of court
FREE SPEECH. Judge Wright not only exceeded his authority as a Judge but deprived Messrs. Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison of their Constitutional rights.

It is our firm conviction, unbiased by partisanship, and with due respect for constituted authority, that Judge Wright has not added anything to the prestige of the Judiciary, but has actually lessened, to a great extent, the respect of a large portion of the American people for that very partial body, the Federal Judiciary, by his unjust decision.

To impose upon honest men who have committed no crime jail sentences is inconsistent with the theory of American fair play and justice, and we believe the people resent very strongly this denial of Constitutional rights, and we are of the opinion that the decision of Judge Wright will do more than any other thing to bring the people of this country face to face with the seriousness of Judge-made-law and government by injunction.

We heartily approve of the courageous stand of Bros. Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison and feel assured that their efforts for the maintenance of fundamental rights is deeply appreciated by the American people.

CHARACTER Character always counts, whether in the long or short run,
COUNTS. and when all men appreciate this fact the average of man will be of higher and better grade. Many men today, or rather, a certain type, are bent on making gain at the expense of other men.

This gain is not a real gain, but a sham gain, as is all selfish *gain*.

The man who thinks he is the gainer by sacrificing character for selfish personal gain fails to understand the simplest philosophy of life.

In the makeup of the *man*, character is the essential, and he who is without character is a mighty poor speciman of the tribe.

They are, it is true, many poor specimens, but this fact itself emphasises the *real* value of character as a factor among *men*.

Real *men* respect character in other men and they strive to strengthen their own.

They realize that to have real confidence in themselves there must be the foundation of character.

ARGUMENT *Mr. President and Delegates*—In this discussion, as in all
BEFORE A. F. of L. discussions where the question at issue is of moment, final
CONVENTION conclusions should be the result of sound and conservative
FROM OFFICIAL judgment. A careful analysis of each argument presented
MINUTES. must be made so that strict and absolute justice shall
 be rendered.

This is a serious question that cannot be acted upon by impulse; it must be settled upon sound premises and logical conclusions. There can be no compromise with right. If these men on the other side are right, gentlemen, they deserve recognition; if they are wrong, then this side deserves recognition. This question has been discussed upon bias and by impulse too long.

This is a final tribunal, and its action must be logical and its action must be final. You will recall that the first day this convention met Mr. Reid stood upon the floor and said: "Our delegates are not here because the funds have been tied up by the Grand Secretary. Our delegates were unable to come." I call upon Mr. Sherman to answer to the truth of that statement, because he (Mr. Sherman) said at the meeting the other night the reason he did not come was because his boy was sick at home, and he thought that was where he ought to be. Is not that a statement of fact, Mr. Sherman?

Mr. Sherman—That is true.

Mr. Collins—The opposition gained time in the beginning by a subterfuge, but the opposition cannot gain anything now by subterfuge; this must be a clean-cut discussion, a logical discussion, without bias and without animosity. No man's game must be plugged, no man's friendship or personality must be a figure in this convention, because all men here are picked men sent here for the purpose of conducting the great labor movement of this country. We have spent many months in thrashing this matter out in our own organization, and you can spend at least a few hours to act finally on this issue.

I am going to touch lightly on statements that have been made, because in justice to our organization and in justice to its officers we owe at least a statement on those issues. We are not going to make this a laundry; we don't intend to do that; it is a tribunal, it is a jury that is hearing the evidence brought to their attention by their committee. This committee has made its report, and I intend to touch upon that report.

The committee reports first, that the constitution of the Brotherhood has not been lived up to. Section 3 of Article 17 requires that a legal convention can be called when five local unions in good standing in the Brotherhood demand it. That is the basic law. I don't care who the Secretary is, or whether he receives one letter scorching (as ex-Secretary Sherman said he received when he was G. S.) him on some matter or a score of such letters, he has no right to relegate the fundamental law to the rear to seek vindication for any action of his.

Laws must be founded on principle, principle first, last and all the time, and men to carry those principles into execution. Laws are made to be observed, and they cannot be broken because some Secretary feels his personality demands vindication. That, gentlemen, is a sound principle, and you must determine that to be a fact when you are determining these issues.

The next question is: Were these local unions given their rights under the constitution? They did appeal for a referendum vote, but two of those

locals were in arrears, and were notified to that effect. Not only that, but in the edition of the magazine I edit, as Secretary, following the receipt of those communications, I placed the appeal of those locals in full, showing they did not set a date, showing there were mistakes in it, and giving the local unions of the Brotherhood an opportunity to send in a legal call.

Gentlemen, the local unions were properly notified that they were in arrears. One of them had been in continuous bad standing for more than a year. A death claim was rejected because they had been suspended three times within a year and a half. The other was in bad standing, not because of a strike it was in, it was in bad standing before that strike. They cannot use that as a subterfuge.

There is not a local union in this Brotherhood that has not received justice under the law, but there has not been a local union big enough to get special privileges when the constitution says that each local union must get exact justice.

A brother on the other side attempts to use the report of the Grand Secretary to show they were in good standing. He stated first before the committee that the September issue of the WORKER, which contains the Grand Secretary's report for three years, was the first report the Grand Secretary ever made, and I handed over to the committee not only that report for three years, but a report for one year, for two years, and for every quarter of the three years. He afterwards used those very reports in this convention in referring to this issue.

Our constitution provides that if a local union does not remit per capita tax one month it may the next. If it does not remit, a notice is to be sent them. If it does not remit the third month that local union goes in arrears. Before its charter is suspended it has a month of grace. If on the fourth month it pays its per capita tax it is then reinstated. The quarterly report of the association shows the money is received, but under any determination of the law can that be construed to mean the local is in good standing merely because it pays money into the organization? The secretary's report shows it was reinstated, and that it had to wait a certain length of time before it was entitled to the privileges under the constitution.

The duties of the Grand President have been touched upon. The Grand President knows his duties, he knows how his office should be conducted. He interprets the constitution, not I. He interprets the constitution, and was sustained by the tribunal of the organization, the Executive Board.

The duties of the Grand Secretary are very clear. They have attempted to confuse you by saying that it was not determined in the constitution who should send out the call. Why, gentlemen, on page 42 of the constitution there is the referendum method. It gives it completely and in detail. In article 24, Sections 1 and 2, it refers to this matter and gives in detail the duty of the Grand Secretary in sending out this referendum. I have never

denied, and I do not intend to deny, but I insist, that it is my duty, and if I had received a legal call previous to the one now being acted upon for January 18th, that call would have been sent out.

They talk about the call of Locals 193 and 427, of Springfield. That is a forged call. It was addressed to the President and never sent to me. I received a copy of it several weeks after it was sent out, and then sent instructions to the Brotherhood how a legal special convention could be called.

The Executive Board never legalized any call. They were called together for the purpose of considering charges. Like any body of men who have been accused by insinuation, they felt that they ought to be vindicated. How could they be vindicated? They thought by recommending a special convention, and before they took up the matter in relation to it they said they would recommend a special convention, and asked the Secretary and President to send out credentials.

This organization is bigger than any man or set of men, and if they want vindication they cannot get it by sacrificing the organization. Each man must take his position under the laws of the organization and under the constitution he is sworn to obey, and he cannot for an instant forget that he owes a duty to the membership. The Grand Secretary is not the Secretary of the Executive Board, and therefore there was no conclusion, and could not have been.

The local unions represented at the St. Louis convention—allowing that the statements of these gentlemen are correct—represented, how many? There were at that time 471 locals in good standing out of a total of 500 in the Brotherhood. They claim they had 153 locals represented there, that 18 of those so represented did not vote, and that two voted Nay. I have submitted to the committee, and made affidavit to it, a statement that out of the locals in attendance in that St. Louis meeting 108 of that 153, with the other locals of the I. B., are doing business since that meeting with my office, with myself as Grand Secretary. I produced the records of the organization, and they are in the possession of your committee. You can examine them if you wish at your leisure, or before you take action. The committee spent three days in taking them up. If you feel you are entitled to do the same, you can do it. Your representative can come to the General Office and ascertain the truth of this statement. If I am wrong no punishment can be too severe for me; but if I am right I want to be told I am right. I want justice, and that is all I am going to get, whether I am right or wrong.

The first court action was taken in the city of Cleveland, Ohio, and one of the very banks they spoke of here yesterday as a depository for funds where they could not be touched was one of the banks that was attached. On the 17th of August, one month before that convention was to meet, a man, who was an officer at one time (ex-G. T. Sullivan) had one of the members of his local union (39) go into court, ask for an injunction and have it granted restraining the officers from disbursing the funds of the organization.

That action was taken on the 17th of August. Grand President McNulty, Grand Secretary Collins and ex-Grand Treasurer Sullivan were made defendants.

We (McNulty or Collins) were not notified. We were not in the jurisdiction of the court, and they thought they would get action on us by default. What did Mr. Sullivan, one of the defendants, do? The injunction specified that we were in conspiracy, made serious insinuations against us, and the ex-Grand Treasurer, one of the defendants, went into court and said: "May it please your Honor, I plead that the injunction asked for is correct in detail. All the officers except myself are guilty, and I hope you will grant the petition asked for in the injunction."

It was granted. We heard of it through a newspaper published in Buffalo. In the injunction they asked that the court appoint a man to call a convention. If it was a legal convention they would not need a commissioner to call it. However, before the court took any action they sent out a call, saying the court had determined a convention should be held, and that an assessment would be levied, if necessary, by the court. This was sent out for the purpose of getting delegates to that convention by hook or crook, and even then, with all the methods used to get the delegates there, only 153 locals were represented out of 500 in the Brotherhood. That is the number that was there by their own statement, which is not sworn to.

The reason they gave before the committee for not asking for the imperative mandate was because the Grand Secretary would not send out any charges against the Grand President. They said here they did not want to send out an appeal because it would cost \$2,000. It would not cost more than \$25.00, and yet they claim it would cost \$2,000 to appeal from the iniquity of a Grand President who was unanimously elected at the Louisville convention.

Potter said there were deputy sheriffs guarding the General Office. What are the facts? You want to know them, because these statements, if not contradicted, may sink in your minds and do us an injustice. On the 13th of September, two days before the dual meeting was called, I was on my way from the East to the General Office. Two of the local union representatives found that certain people on their way to St. Louis were around the office without any right to be there. When I reached there they said: "Bro. Collins, your office needs protection; your records need protection." This was said by officers of the local union, one the president and the other a member of the Executive Board. I said: "Gentlemen, while some of my records have been taken when the office was not guarded, if your local says my office needs protection, I will protect it." And I went to our attorneys and asked their advice.

It is not a crime to go to an attorney for advice when there is a question of such magnitude before us as the protection of the records of our General Office. Prior to that time some difficulty had occurred in the General Office.

A member came there who had previously been employed in the office as a clerk, and while I was away he had taken some records from the office. I got out a writ of replevin to get those books, but they were spirited out of the state and could not be had.

When they came back from this convention on the 25th of September they went to the bonding company—the National Surety Company—in Springfield, and said to the representative there: “Mr. Gard, we have been elected national officers of the Electrical Workers. We want a bond of \$4,000 to cover the property in the office of Mr. Collins.” He said before he would take action he would like to meet Mr. Collins and make him acquainted with their request. He called me up and I explained the situation to him. I told him if he wanted to give the men a bond it was for him to determine.

Mr. Gard said he would advise them he could not be a party to determining any dissention in the organization. He refused to give them a bond. It was their intention to go to a justice of the peace in Springfield.

A justice of the peace has jurisdiction up to \$200. They were going to get a writ of replevin for those books because they could not get a bond for \$4,000, although the vouchers, etc., in the office represented a half million dollars in disbursements. I went to the circuit court and said: “I want the question determined of whether or not I am the custodian of those records. If I am not, I want to know it; and if I am, I want them restrained from taking the records under a bond of \$200 or \$4,000 until it is determined who is the legal custodian.”

I had inserted in the restraining order that it did not restrain these men from coming in and showing whether they were the custodians of the records or not. Did they go in and deny it? Take their affidavit. Where a temporary injunction has been prayed for a notice of the same must be given the other party has five days to answer. The rule of law is that if the allegation contained in the request for the injunction is specifically denied, then the injunction must be dissolved.

But the allegation was not denied. They said: “We have not determined whether or not we will get out a writ of replevin,” and therefore they could not take possession of the records of the General Office until they had proven in a suit of replevin that their action was proper and that they were the legal representatives of the organization.

Gentlemen, Brother Sherman has spoken of Brother Sullivan being Treasurer. When this injunction was issued in Cleveland the local unions could not get the money which is in the District Council fund, and all other funds were tied up. Without prejudice we went to work and sent a letter to Mr. Sullivan—signed by the Grand President, the Grand Treasurer, and myself—stating if he would release the convention fund we would pay all warrants.

He was not legally Treasurer. He had been removed by the unanimous consent of the Executive Board. We sent this communication on the 11th of September. He answered on the 25th of September, stating that he would pay District Council warrants if we would pay the convention expenses of an illegal convention.

This organization was too big and too great to be tied up. The Grand Secretary was custodian of the daily receipts, and when we were tied up, and after the Grand Treasurer had refused to sign warrants, I immediately wired the Grand President for consent to pay legal obligations of the Brotherhood from the daily receipts of the Secretary. Brother Sullivan was notified by the Grand President if he refused to sign warrants properly and legally drawn he would stand deposed.

He refused, and the obligations were met from the Secretary's daily receipts. If the other side had accepted our proposition the District Councils would not have had a minute's embarrassment. Since the injunction was issued I have honored every warrant from District Councils.

Mr. Sherman read a telegram. He did not say who it was from.

Mr. Sherman—From J. W. Murphy.

Mr. Collins—He sent a telegram stating that 71 locals had reported to him that they voted against the special convention on the 18th of January. There are 500 locals in the Brotherhood. The other side sent out a circular asking the locals to vote against a special convention. These are the returns. I do not even think they had 71, but they claim that number. They have fallen down from the statement of 171 to 71.

There are 500 locals voting on this proposition. The date for closing is the 16th of November. Those returns will be published. The other side has stated that they have only 71. We have almost 429 locals that are voting the other way. There is their own admission that their greatest strength is in the telegram from the man they claim is Grand Secretary.

The convention fund of the Brotherhood pays all the expenses of the delegates; therefore no local union will be denied representation in that convention on account of difficulties or embarrassment of that sort. Furthermore, every local union that has remitted, even to these people, if they can show they have remitted, will get representation in that convention.

This issue cannot be determined by funny stories about lawyers or other people (as told by Mr. Sherman). Lawyers are good, bad and indifferent; they are like you and I; they have their failings; but until the labor movement recognizes that there must be discipline in the organizations so that

traitors in the ranks—whether they claim to be trade unionists or not—can be properly disciplined, then the advice of somebody is necessary to see that great organizations do not go to pieces.

“The expenses of a lawyer are tremendous and will need a fund of \$80,000.” Gentlemen, \$600 is the total of expense so far incurred, and I assume there will not be a great deal more. Every organization needs legal advice. You heard the necessity of that discussed during the week.

Another mis-statement has been made. No alternates were ever selected at Louisville. (Sherman said there were.) The records of that convention are here, and the original minutes of the stenographer bear out the statement that no alternates were elected.

There are many points raised in this discussion. Some the relevant, others are irrelevant; and it is up to this convention to determine the relevancy of each point made. The committee desired to be fair, but I know in their desire to be fair they won't be doing an injustice to the organization. Our difficulties within the organization can be determined at its convention legally called and held, and it will take up all these insinuations and charges and countercharges.

Personally, I do not care whether I am seated here as a delegate or not.

My organization will have representation here; but if your convention is to determine that because a law is not in the constitution of the Brotherhood that provides specifically for vacancies in this delegation, when it provides specifically for vacancies in all other offices, and you say that the whole delegation dies off with the exception of one, and that one can represent the organization, I feel you are establishing a precedent. That, however, is for you to determine. The committee had all the evidence; they have fairly and without prejudice given to each side an impartial hearing. I believe they have done their duty as they see it, and they must do their duty as they see it, not as I see it.

The report of the committee is not all satisfactory to us, but they have determined that this Brotherhood shall be represented at this convention by its legally elected delegates, and that is all we want. The affairs of the Brotherhood, outside of that, will be determined by the 80 per cent or the 90 per cent, or the 100 per cent that will be in attendance at our next convention.

Over 80 per cent of the entire Brotherhood are doing business with the General Office. If that per cent in its judgment says that one is right and one is wrong we must bow to their verdict, but the question that was brought up here must be determined by you.



Official Journal of the
INTERNATIONAL
Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Published Monthly.

PETER W. COLLINS, Editor.

Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., DECEMBER, 1908

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Pierik Building, Springfield, Illinois.

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Subscription, \$1.00 per year, in advance.

This Journal will not be held responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

The first of each month is the closing date; all copy must be in our hands on or before.



The H. W. Rokker Co., Springfield, Ill.

INFORMATION.

Any one knowing the whereabouts of W. F. Field, last heard of in December, 1907, in Chicago Heights, will confer a favor by addressing his wife, Mrs. Gertrude B. Field, 117 Walnut St., Yankton, S. D.

Any one knowing the whereabouts of B. P. Proctor, last heard of in July, 1907, in Local 309, E. St. Louis, will confer a favor by communicating with his wife, Mrs. B. P. Proctor, 2016 Wall St., Joplin, Mo.

If Kid Lucas sees this, please write to his brother, John Lucas, 1112 Locust St., Kansas City, Mo., care Structural Iron Works. Would like to hear from you.

If any brother knowing the whereabouts of our deceased Brother Carney's trunk to notify L. V. No. 401, of Reno, Nevada, as papers of much value are known to be in same. Thanking you in advance, I am

Fraternally,

D. WHIPPLE,
Recording Secy.

Troy, Ohio, Dec. 16, 1908.

I would like to appeal to you to help me to locate Mr. Collert. I was told by one of the members of your union that you would put an item in the Electrical Worker. He is a union man in high standing. He is a relative of mine and appealing to you through the Worker is the only way I know to get him. I wish you would say that Foster Wooley of Troy, O., would like to hear from him. I am a union engineer, No. 27. Yours,

F. WOOLEY, Troy, O.

William McKenzie, 183212, initiated October 18, 1907, and Morton Harvey, 183203, initiated Sept. 15, 1906, are scabbing in the Oxford paper mill.

Fraternally,

M. T. JOYCE,
Sec.-Treas. D. C. No. 2.

NOTICE.

Jacob Schwartz, proprietor of the North German Hotel, 900 Brannan street, corner of Eighth street, San Francisco, Cal., desires to hear from all brothers who are indebted to him for board and lodgings. He writes that if he does not hear from them in the near future, he will publish their names.

LABORERS' RELIEF COMMITTEE

In Aid of the Earthquake Sufferers of Calabria and Sicily.

Boston, Mass., Jan. 4, 1909.

To the Members of Organized Labor—Greetings:

You have all been shocked with the terrible reports of the earthquake in Southern Italy, and will, no doubt, have some slight knowledge of the destitution and despair of the survivors who are left practically helpless without food, clothing or shelter.

This circular is issued by the Laborers' Relief Committee of Boston to solicit assistance for the sufferers.

The committee knows that in the past you have always lent a willing ear to the cry of distress and have always responded promptly.

We beseech you to render all the assistance in your power now, as you well know it is at the present time, when everything is chaos and confusion that your assistance will be most welcome. Any small sum will be appreciated.

Send all contributions to

CAV. D'ALESSANDRO,
144 North St., Boston, Mass.

Signed for the committee:

DOMINIO D'ALESSANDRO,

General President Hod Carriers and Building Laborers Union of America.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 23, 1908.

To Organized Labor and Friends:

We, the members of Local No. 3, Metal Polishers and Buffers, appeal to you for moral and financial assistance in our strike at the Cleveland Foundry Company, where our members have been locked out.

This firm locked out our members for the purpose of breaking up our organization and those of the other metal trades in their employ, with a view to the establishment of the "open shop." The proposed reduction amounts to 20 per cent.

Brothers, if this fight is lost the continued existence of our organization is endangered and the other metal trades will be similarly affected. In the past we have not only fought our own battles, but have promptly responded to all appeals for help. We are now compelled to ask your assistance financially. Brothers, it means a great deal to us, and we feel that you will not fail us in this, our hour of need.

Give us all the financial assistance your means will permit. We assure you the favor will not be forgotten, and we may be able to assist you in a similar emergency in the future.

Hoping you will not "waste paper" this appeal, but act, we beg to remain,

Yours in the cause for union conditions,

MAX. FRANK, Chairman,

JOHN E. BURKE,

WM. BURNS,

JOE PARKER,

JOHN G. WILLETT, Secretary,

P. S.—Please send all donations to

JOHN G. WILLETT, Secretary No. 3,
718 W. Superior Avenue.

And notify Max. Frank, 9314 Hough Court.

WARNING!

HELENA, Mont., Oct. 7, 1908.

All workmen are requested to refrain from coming to Montana for the purpose of working on the Hauser Lake, or Wolf Creek Dams, near Helena, as the contractors, Stone & Webster, refuse to employ union men, and have been declared unfair by the Montana Federation of Labor and International Structural Iron Workers.

This firm has been paying common laborers \$1.75 per ten-hour day, carpenters \$2.50, and other crafts accordingly. Sanitary conditions are of the worst and this camp gives promise of becoming a hot-bed of fever. Conditions are so bad that recently a number of non-unionists went on strike.

If you do not wish to contract fever, heed this warning, and do not accept employment from the firm of Stone & Webster, of Boston, Mass.

By order of the Executive Board.

ALEX. FAIRGRIEVE.

President Montana Federation of Labor.

HOWARD O. SMITH,

Secretary Montana Federation of Labor.

Denver, Colo., July 25, 1908.

Mr. Peter W. Collins, Int. Bro. Elec. W.,
Springfield, Ill.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER—You no doubt remember when resolution No. 45, providing for help for the Denver Building Trades in their fight against the Colorado Citizens' Alliance, was discussed before the committee on Building Trades at Norfolk by one of the undersigned, many of the committee were in favor of contributing at once, but the others thought it should be submitted to the convention. This was done, and the convention unanimously concurred in the resolution.

Since the meeting at Norfolk, the prosecutions have continued, and in May of this year, criminal charges were preferred against officers of the Denver Marble Workers Union and the Denver Building Trades Council, and they were arrested. This trial is to come up in the fall, and

is to be the test of the outrageous Colorado law, which not only forbids boycotting and picketing, but practically makes the most peaceful strike illegal.

At the same time these criminal proceedings were instituted, a suit for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) was brought against the central bodies, the Building Trades Council, the unions and fifty individual members of the unions, for having induced union men to quit work on the Ideal building in Denver where non-union men were employed.

The complaint in this suit asks that the defendants be imprisoned for one year if they do not pay the judgment, so not only is it an attempt to deprive the union men of their homes, if they are fortunate enough to possess them, but to enforce a criminal penalty.

These proceedings entail a great expense, the large number of witnesses that must be in attendance upon the court, costs and attorneys' fees, and at least five thousand dollars (\$5,000) will be needed to properly carry these cases through the courts of last resort, and we have fought them alone and have received no financial aid from the outside so far. On their being successfully fought, depends the Colorado labor movement, and the western movement generally, to say nothing of the precedent that would be established, if we lose, and we ask you to contribute as liberally and as promptly as you can to aid us in this just and necessary fight.

Send all contributions to L. M. French, 432 Charles building, treasurer of the Associated Defence Committee.

An official receipt will be sent by the secretary of the committee.

GEO. A. HALLY,

Pres. State Fed. of Labor.

J. T. CLAPP,

Pres. Denver B. T. U.

L. M. FRENCH,

Pres. Denver Trades Assembly.

HENRY KOENIG,

Pres. Int. Marble Workers No. 76.

Committee.

WORST CRIME OF ALL.

"Call the jury for the next case," said the judge.

"May it please the court," said the prosecuting attorney, "the prisoner at bar is not entitled to a jury. He—"

"Why, even the orneriest chicken thief is entitled to a trial by jury," exclaimed the judge. "It is the inalienable right of every man charged with —"

"But this is a union man charged with having violated your order not to approach a strikebreaker with intent to influence him."

"What? Prisoner, stand up! You have committed a crime which is so much worse than murder, rape, incest, arson, infanticide, homicide, patricide, matricide or fratricide that you have forfeited all right to a trial by jury. Solitary confinement for six months. Call the next case!"
—Lincoln Wageworker.

PRICE LIST OF SUPPLIES.

Charter Fee, for each member.....	\$1 00	ELECTRICAL WORKER subscription,	
Seal	3 50	per year	1 00
Rolled Gold Charms.....	2 00	Treasurer's Account Book.....	50
Solid Gold Emblematic Buttons, ea..	1 00	Treasurer's Receipt Book.....	25
Heavy Rolled Gold Emblematic Buttons, each	50	Warrant Book for R. S.....	25
Solid Gold Cuff Buttons, per pair...	2 00	Financial Secretary's Ledger, 200 pages	1 50
Rolled Gold Cuff Buttons, per pair..	1 50	Financial Secretary's Ledger, 400 pages	2 50
Constitutions, per 100.....	5 00	Minute Book for R. S.....	75
Membership Cards, per 100.....	1 00	Day Book	50
Traveling Cards, per dozen.....	50	Roll Call Book.....	50
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Application Blanks, per 100.....	50		
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Official Letter Paper, per 100.....	50		
Official Envelopes, per 100.....	50		
Official Notice of Arrears, per 100..	50		
F. S. Report Blanks, per dozen.....	50		
Set of Books, including Receipts,			
Warrants, etc.....	5 00		

NOTE—The above articles will be supplied only when the requisite amount of cash accompanies the order, otherwise the order will not be recognized. All supplies sent by us have postage or express charges prepaid.

Address PETER W. COLLINS, G. S.

COMMENT ON SITUATION

Some people only show how agile their minds could be when it is necessary to do some political acrobatics, and in this connection let us call attention to the superior ability in that line of those who either rule or ruin the organization in order to give vent to their spleen. After the meeting at St. Louis they claimed vociferously that a legal convention had been held. At Denver they admitted by their agreement that the convention was not a legal one but that they would make every effort to promote the holding of a legal one at an early date.

This evidently did not meet the approval of the second in command and they kicked over the traces and refused to live up to agreement, and by their actions have forced the leaders in the disruption movement to again jump the fence and get back to the claim that the convention was a legal one and now we find them in court with the prayer that the court prevent the legally elected officers from in any way promoting a convention and to prevent the holding of one, and, if it please the court, to turn the organization, hair and hide, over to them that their efforts to finally wreck it may meet with speedy success.

Consider for a moment the agility with which they go from one extreme to the other. A short time ago they were telling the rank and file that the old officers would in a short while be starved out and would quit business for lack of funds. This was one of the stock statements given out time after time and now they swear in court that the Grand Secretary is doing irreparable injury to the Brotherhood (them) by receiving the bulk of the funds. (Somebody lied to you.) Evidently the great trust magnates are not the only ones afflicted with failing memories; it is becoming fashionable. And the great cry was raised about the great court and lawyer fees spent by Collins, \$500.00 to Brandies.

Let us take a cold review of the facts in regard to this phase of the situation.

First, tie up of the funds by Gieb at Sullivan's instance in Cleveland, Ohio, declared by Sullivan to occur in May, '08. Cause, ?????

2. Protest on holding convention without a referendum vote received under seal of two locals, and in August circular letter issued to membership stating that convention would be illegal if held, after legal advice was had on protest of Locals.

3. Letter sent by McNulty to Board, also advising them to have locals in their district request referendum.

NEXT MOVE.

4. J. W. Murphy, of Cleveland, acting as G. S., apparently appointed by Sullivan, sends out convention call and credentials, accompanied by letters stating that funds will be had in plenty for convention and promising sensational disclosures in regard to money matters.

5. Illegal convention convened at St. Louis Sept. 15, 1908. In attendance opening day 204 (?) delegates representing 171 (?) Locals, of which

16 Locals left convention, most of these only attending one day, leaving a total of 155 Locals to act for the entire Brotherhood.

6. On Oct. 2, 1908, a temporary order was granted, at Collins' request, restraining the ones elected as officers at illegal convention from obtaining possession of General Office. Cause, affidavit that the ones elected at St. Louis had tried to get bond for a suit of replevin on General Office.

7. Letter from McNulty, Collins, McCadden to Sullivan requesting an agreement as to signature in order to distribute District Council funds.

8. Answer from Sullivan that he will sign for all indebtedness, chief of which Sullivan believed to be the distribution of illegal convention fund.

9. Circular letter sent out by Oliver Meyers, P. D. C., asking all District Council Presidents to file crossbills to Cleveland suit.

10. A. F. of L. convention met Nov. 9, 1908. Special committee appointed by President Gompers to hear evidence on protest. After five sessions recommend that delegates elected at Louisville, Ky., in 1905, be seated, declaring St. Louis meeting illegal, and recommending that both sides use their efforts to promote a legal convention, Jan. 18, 1909, or if the vote then out failed, as soon as possible afterwards, according to the Constitution of I. B. E. W. After lengthy debate by all parties, convention concurs in report.

11. Agreement reached to hold convention and to dismiss all suits at law at once and to enter no suits at law or equity.

Agreement signed by McNulty, Collins, Fay, Sweek and Culver for one side of controversy, and by Reid, Sherman, Potter, Whalen and F. J. Sullivan for other side.

Agreement reached November 19.

12. Suit of Collins at Springfield dismissed Oct. 20, and notice of dismissal made part of A. F. of L. proceedings.

13. M. Grant Hamilton, of Denver Typographical Union, appointed as referee for Electrical Workers at expense of A. F. of L.

14. Brother Hamilton, after spending some time in Springfield, went in person to Cleveland, Ohio, to try and have suit there dismissed, and later called G. P. McNulty and G. S. Collins there for conference. The conference resulting in nothing, due to the conditions demanded by the dual organization, viz., the payment of Oliver Meyers of \$3100.00 of District Council funds, to Louis Gieb \$700.00 legal expense, and the payment of St. Louis meeting expenses nineteen thousand (\$19,000) dollars, which would naturally make payable the promises of convention of twenty-six thousand (\$26,000) dollars more. (See actions on appeals in illegal convention proceedings.) This would make a total of \$48,000 to be distributed before funds would be released. This, with the exception of the \$3,100 demanded by Oliver Meyers, would be outside and apart from the District Council fund held at Cleveland. A condition that would make a great deal of difference in the financial standing of the Brotherhood—all this in face of the fact that the agreement reached at Denver specifically states all suits at law to be dismissed at once.

15. Suit filed in Circuit Court of Springfield by Murphy, Jan. 4, to prevent Collins and McNulty from handling any of the business or funds of the Brotherhood.

16. Again, in their prayer to the court, filed on about January 4, they state that the Brotherhood consists of 450 Locals. This is a little hard to reconcile with their statement that a great majority of the Locals of the Brotherhood was represented at the St. Louis meeting when the highest mark reached there was 171 Locals, even considering the 16 Locals which were not represented after the first few days. The claim was set forth that it was the second largest convention ever held by the Brotherhood, second only to the Louisville convention. And 60 of these so-called delegates were in arrears to G. O. when said meeting was held.

17. At the Louisville convention the Brotherhood had about 17,000 members in good standing. In their suit filed in the Circuit Court here they state that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is an unincorporated association, consisting of about 35,000 members. The difference in membership being nearly double, would of itself lead anyone to suppose that in order to be a representative convention the attendance should, instead of falling behind that reached at Louisville, be nearly double that.

18. It is further stated in the prayer to the court that call for special convention was duly issued and that said call was submitted to referendum vote to all local unions and was carried by more than two-thirds of all the Locals voting on the question of special convention. It is well known by all the local unions in the Brotherhood that a referendum was never taken to hold special convention.

19. It is further stated in the bill that Peter W. Collins and F. J. McNulty began to issue circular letters of false and scandalous nature, directed against members who made complaints. This needs no comment as the files of any local union receiving same will show from what source the circular letters of scandalous nature emanated.

In conclusion, it would be well to consider the possibilities were the situation handled in a different manner by the executive officers.

If the call for convention had been issued, there is little doubt that a great majority of the Brotherhood would have sent delegates, relying on their expenses being paid by the general office. If it is possible for one individual in Cleveland, namely, Louis Gieb, to tie up \$83,000 of the Brotherhood's money on the supposition that it might possibly be misappropriated and not used in accordance with the constitution, is it not reasonable to suppose that any one local or individual would find it very easy to tie up the funds of the Brotherhood and prevent the expenses of a convention being paid when he could positively show that expense was not incurred in accordance with the laws, and, in view of the fact that the general office was notified under seal of locals that this would be done, would not the situation have been a great deal worse if call had been issued from General Office?

If a convention, where a small minority is represented (171 locals out of 450) cost \$19,000, what would be the cost of a convention where a great majority would be in attendance? And would not the situation as regards finances be worse than it is?

Another evidence of the opposition's duplicity is the fact that first they tied up all the money of the Brotherhood so that District Councils could not receive their money, and then raised a hue and cry that the G. O. refused to pay District Council warrants, and used every influence they possessed to have demands made for money that they well knew could not be reached, owing to the action they had taken.

Evidently a great deal had to be left unsaid by the disrupters in their efforts in order to have the membership believe that funds of the Brotherhood were being squandered and the Brotherhood was on the high road to destruction, due to the present administration, when as a matter of fact the membership had been on a steady increase and the finances were nearly double the highest point reached by the Brotherhood formerly.

Another evidence of the brand of consistency displayed by them is that a great cry was raised that we must work more for economy, that the lavish expenditures of the Brotherhood must be stopped and some sound financial footing obtained.

In order to do this they concluded to reduce the salary of the G. P. \$200 per year and the salary of the G. S. \$400 per year, making a saving of \$600 per annum. To offset this they raised the salary of the Grand treasurer \$1,400 per year, placed another Vice-President in the field at \$1,500, and raised the expenses allowed fifty cents per day, which would make another addition for Presidents and Vice-Presidents \$902.50 per year, so we find that to offset the saving of \$600 per year an additional expense to the Brotherhood amounting to \$3802.50 was added. This may be a good way to save money, but it is not the method of figuring used during the few days we attended school when boys.

Again, if the promises made by the opposition, first, of the immediate presence of plenty of funds to defray expense of convention at St. Louis and sensational disclosures concerning strikes; second, made at Denver for holding a legal convention and to use every effort to straighten out the actions and institute no further proceedings at law, are so much in the nature of pie crusts that are only made to be broken, by what system of thought can an intelligent membership rely on their promises to them?

In conclusion a little summary in figures that speaks more eloquently than many printed pages:

Membership at time of Louisville convention, about 17,000.

Membership now, according to bill filed in court, 35,000.

Gain in membership, 17,000.

Expense of largest convention at Louisville, \$18,436.25.

Expense (according to petition filed by Murphy) of St. Louis meeting, \$19,000.

On hand before Louisville convention, about \$45,000.

Tied up in Cleveland banks by suit of Gieb, \$83,000.

Money claimed by opposition to be in hands of Collins, from \$15,000 to \$20,000.

If they rely upon their own figures to prove that the Brotherhood was fast being despoiled by the officers and would be a financial and moral derelict before a regular convention could be held, we can only say their system of accounting is outside the scope of what seems to us human intelligence.

G. V. P. NOONAN.

FIGHTING TUBERCULOSIS.

Modern Woodmen Society will Conduct Free Sanatorium for Members—A Fraternal Proposition.

At the December meeting of the Executive Council of the Modern Woodmen Society, held at the headquarters of the Society in Rock Island, Ill., it was decided to conduct that Society's sanatorium, located at Colorado Springs, Colo., for the treatment of members afflicted with tuberculosis, free of all charge to members.

The Modern Woodmen Society, several months since, acquired 1,380 acres of land within seven miles of Colorado Springs, and has established thereon an up-to-date sanatorium, the tent colony plan being employed. The first colony plan will be ready for the reception of patients on Jan. 1, 1909, and is equipped to care for 60 patients, to which number admissions must be limited for the present.

The tents are octagonal structures, with shingle roofs, canvas sides, hard wood floors on solid cement foundations, heated by a central plant, equipped with all modern conveniences, such as telephones, etc., and each tent will accommodate one patient. An administration building for physicians, nurses, dining halls, baths of all kinds, etc., stands in the center of the colony.

Dr. J. E. White, formerly of the Nordrach ranch sanatorium, the medical director in charge, states that only those consumptive members who are curable, or whose lives may be prolonged for a considerable length of time, will be admitted as patients. The wisdom of this rule is apparent. Rigid medical examination as a condition precedent to admission will be insisted upon in every case, and special blank forms have been prepared for this purpose.

It is expected that another colony of 60 tents will be ready by July, 1909, and that acceptable patients will be ready to occupy it in full by that time. A movement is already under way to equip the second colony plant. Each tent, completely equipped, represents an expense of \$250, and a number of local Camps, or lodges, of the Society have decided to donate tents. As there are over 13,000 local Camps of Modern Woodmen, and over 1,000,000 members, it is anticipated that several colonies will soon be equipped in this way.

The members and local Camps of the Society have voluntarily contributed to the Sanatorium fund over \$70,000, and at the last national convention a permanent tax of ten cents per member was voted to the support of this work.

The last official Woodmen reports show that during the years 1891-1907, inclusive, 14.5 per cent of the total mortality, or 5,156 deaths, were charged to tuberculosis, and that 13.9 per cent of the total insurance losses in those years, or \$9,065,000, resulted from this cause. As the mortality experience of the Modern Woodmen Society has been remarkably favorable, being but 70 per cent of the expected at all ages under the National Fraternal Congress table, a death rate of but 620 per 1,000—or but 4.98 per 1,000, if the experience of the first five membership years be included—the much heavier insurance losses inflicted upon other societies experiencing a higher mortality may be conservatively approximated.

Which prompts this question: If the Woodmen Society, with its exceptionally favorable mortality, finds it to be "Good business," as well as good fraternalism, to fight consumption in this way, why should not other fraternal societies, life insurance companies, labor organizations, the national and international church bodies, etc., find it profitable, from the viewpoint of business or benevolence, or both, to take such action?

Each life saved to the Woodmen Society, by means of this sanatorium, will, it is stated, represent a saving of \$1,700—the average amount of the Woodmen policies in force—at an expense for treatment of approximately one-twentieth of that sum. In the broader sense, each life saved means the reservation to the family of its head and bread-winner, and to the state of a useful, self-sustaining citizen.

CURRENT JOKES.

CLIPPED FROM HERE AND THERE.

"Come, Myrtle," said Percival Black,
"For a ride in my new Faddillac."

But the auto turned turtle,

And Percy and Myrtle

Were carried away in a sack. Ex.

* * *

Visitor—Is your master in?

Servant—No; he's from home, sir.

Visitor—Gone away on a holiday, I suppose?

Servant—No, sir; on a bicycle.—Ex.

* * *

"A dead fish will float down stream,
but it takes a live one to swim against
the current."

ADDRESS OF RAYMOND ROBBINS AT A. F. OF L. CONVENTION AT DENVER.

Mr. President, Fellow Delegates, Fellow Citizens, Men of Labor, Men and Women Who Work and Think and Have Some Large Purpose in the Common Life of the World: I am glad to talk with you for a little while this afternoon as one man speaks to other men, and as a man speaks to his friends. Underneath all this great struggle that marks the conflict of labor in the world of men is really a great idea. And every form of that struggle is simply an expression in one aspect or another of a great idea; and the divisions between men and society, earnest men, capable men, who divide, on the one hand, friendly to organized labor, and others who divide, on the other hand, in sometimes bitter enmity to organized labor, is really, when it is sifted down, to be determined upon one real principle underneath the whole struggle.

The Danbury Hatters' case, injunctions granted by judges at night while propped up by pillows in their beds, with nobody present but the lawyers for the employers—all these conflicts are to be explained on one ground. That ground is this: the whole conflict in this country and in the world between the men of labor on the one hand, and the men opposed to labor on the other hand, is this: that the men of labor are advancing and affirming and declaring and maintaining the citizenship values of the working man; and the other group is advancing and maintaining and advocating the profit values of the labor of man; and the whole struggle comes out of the point of view whether or not you are interested as a citizen of the Republic, as a man, in the citizenship values of human labor, or whether you are interested chiefly in the profit values, the property values of human labor as an asset for certain individuals, or people, or corporations or employers. There is the whole conflict, and you will find intelligent and able men whose minds are devoted to the question of the money side of the conflict, who become so biased and so set in their judgment that they lose sight of the human values in the controversy altogether. They do not care especially for child labor, they do not care especially to stop women from those employments that break down their health and destroy their possibility of becoming mothers. You can get the basis of the conflict on whether the group is interested most in the human values, the citizen values, or most in the property values, the profit values of the men. There are able and honest men sitting as judges in high

courts who believe that judgments in protection of property rights that are manifestly in destruction of human rights are really good, because they see only the property values in the controversy.

And this brings me, men of labor, to the thing I am glad to say in this convention this afternoon. The problem before labor in America and the world is a problem of interpretation. It is a problem of getting out the citizenship values in the possession of organized labor, and forcing the recognition of these values upon the men and women of fair purpose and honest intentions in the community and in the state and in the nation. There are more fair-minded men than there are of the other kind. There are more people in the world who want to do the right thing than who purposely want to do the wrong thing; and while there are those implicated in the steal directly, men and women who profit greatly out of the social injustice and wrong in the industrial situation of our country, they will never be the people who will lead in the cause of labor. It is also true that when you convince a man or woman, whether they are friendly to labor or are opposed to labor, that the values of manhood and womanhood and childhood are involved, you break down the efficiency of that man or woman in opposing the just demands of labor for the future. All over this country there are large groups of men or women not directly engaged in the struggle who do not understand themselves and their relationship to the struggle. Two millions of working men, more or less intelligent, on the one hand, and half a million employers, more or less intelligent, on the other hand, and a great mass of men and women in between who have not the true values of this struggle in their mind, and who, if they do have the true values, would support many of the just demands of labor. It is a problem of interpretation, a problem of making the real human value manifest to many men and women not directly interested personally in this struggle.

While organized labor fought its battles on the industrial field we made advances. You know that struggle intimately. You know that when labor with its committee met with the committee of the employers and sat down at the table and discussed the demands of labor we made advances. We made advances because the great human values under our contentions carries us on in spite of the ability and the greed of the opposing forces. But

there came a time in this country about ten years ago when a great number of employers began to form into more or less secret organizations. They were called manufacturers' associations in some cities, employers' associations in some states, citizens' alliances in some towns; but the purpose behind them all, regardless of the fair promises and fair-spoken words, the definite and organized and powerful purpose was to break down trade unions in every industry in this country. How did they go about it? Not by discussing it in the open. They went about it by forming lobbies in various legislatures, by forming a lobby in the Congress of the United States, by engaging the services of lawyers who were friendly to special judges—who had the "pull," as it were, of friendship and past favors upon judges on benches in state and federal courts. Let us speak the facts as they occurred. Organized labor then found itself contesting on the industrial field with the more or less fair manufacturers of the country—and I wish to say there are some manufacturers who are as fair and reasonable and decent men as can be found anywhere, and we are mighty glad to have those men. We found ourselves dealing with them, on the one hand, in the industrial field, while the other group, the employers of scab labor, the labor skimmers, the labor crushers, were organized and bringing their power to bear upon the legislatures and courts of the country. In Illinois, where it has been my privilege to live for some time, we have a good many men and women working today in occupations that may be called dangerous trades by reason of the machinery used and the conditions of the industry. There is not one word on the statute books of Illinois which really protects those men and women from crippled hands and lost limbs, from crippled bodies and lost lives in those industries. As a matter of fact tonight the men and women in Illinois in dangerous trades are less protected than men and women in Finland—and we think Illinois is a civilized community! Now what happened? Organized labor bore the burden of the struggle, just as organized labor has been the power behind the passage of child labor laws and all laws that really save the life of man. They took up the struggle and presented a reasonable and fair bill in the legislature in the state of Illinois. It was about to be passed. The Manufacturers' Association of Chicago and Illinois sent to the legislature its secretary, an able and clever man, who is not too careful of the truth when he makes statements about labor men. He established a lobby and had one or two very able and clever lawyers at his shoulder all the time. He began to make arguments to the legislators and they were not all addressed to the mind;

some of those were addressed here (touching his pocket). Some of those legislators built nice houses when they went home, although they did not have any money when they went to the legislature, and they were supposed to get only \$1,000 for their year's service! That bill was lost. Is there any fairminded man of any political persuasion whatever who can bring himself to object if organized labor in the state of Illinois says "As long as you fought us on the industrial field we were content to remain on that field and we wanted to stay there, but if you retire and bolster yourself up behind a lobby on the political field and begin to contribute to the election of legislators for the purpose of betraying us, and begin to contribute to the campaign fund of judges for the purpose of getting unfair injunctions against us, in the name of men and women and children in the state of Illinois, we will go into politics and drive you out."

That is the general situation when you get down to the real facts. Then you will find organized labor has been content to discuss its issues on the industrial field, but the other fellows have not been. They have had their power, their education and ability, but they did not trust that. They never sat down to discuss a proposition with us that they did not have two or three trained lawyers ready to help them on the monied side. I have sometimes sat in such a controversy when it seemed to me that if God Almighty had come down and said a certain thing was good for the workers they would have objected to it. I have no objection to lawyers. I have known lawyers who were honest, but I tell you, my friends, you have to sift pretty close to find them. That is the situation that has faced organized labor in this great nation of ours; and if organized labor, responding to the action of employers of scab labor, follow them up and drive them out of the political forces of our people that were made to serve the whole people, I think organized labor will be doing a service to the whole nation and not to any class.

You can not escape this struggle. The strongest organized union that may look down on the field and say "We are safe," is deluding itself if it makes any such statement anywhere in the industrial field. As a matter of fact, the strongest union isn't any stronger in the last analysis than the weakest union, and we have to learn that great truth. The working class will stand or fall together. And when I say "class," I do not mean class in any foolish, doctrinaire sense. I mean the men and women who really earn what they eat in any capacity, whether it be by mind or hand. Those people have got to get together against the people who are the common plunder-

ers of the whole nation, regardless of class.

Now, my friends, when I say we can not escape this struggle, on what grounds do I base that statement? Not on guess work; I base it on facts. I want to say to you men of labor, you who represent America's toiling thousands, that I know something of the labor end of the game also, something of unorganized labor in a southern mine where I worked day after day for twelve hours a day, side by side with colored men, and got a dollar a day for the work. That is not specially high wages! We were not organized; we were poor, common white trash on the one hand, and poor, worthless niggers on the other hand, and we were making people rich while we worked there. We were good enough to do that. I didn't like it; I don't deny that for a moment. I broke away and went to Alaska. I was one of the bunch of men who went up there and fought their way over Chilcoot Summit and down White Horse Rapids. I was one of those who did well. Most of them went broke. When we passed on over the great frozen stretches of Alaska in the spring of '98, we stopped on a cliff that looked out over Behring Sea to the utmost limit of the western continent of North America. And the great cold there worked the same magic the great heat does in the desert. It lifted up far over the tops of the icebergs and the great ice sea the cliffs of far Siberia, seventy miles away, and we saw on the horizon the cliffs of that old Asia, that ancient human hive from which came forth the man that made western civilization. I didn't know what it meant then. I turned back and went through the valleys and over the mountains of Alaska and made a stake, so I am free to be here today. Now I know what it meant. It meant that the great frontier which for a hundred years gave an opening to the surplus labor of America, had passed forever from the world. It meant that the great western movement that came out from the east, that came across western Europe and laid the foundations of human liberty and justice in that "tight little island," then forced its way across the ocean and established on the Atlantic shore the thirteen colonies; then passed across the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, until its waves met the waves of the Pacific, would rest there. It rested there a while, and then the old hunger for opportunity, the hunger of the boy to try his life against the life of the world, drove the men of '98 over the Chilcoot Summit, but it will not drive them in the future anywhere. They will go out into the ocean and drown.

Today, as you sit here discussing the great interests of humanity bound up in the cause of organized labor, in every

little town of the country, in every farmer's home, there is a bright-eyed boy thinking of the future, thinking of leaving his narrow surroundings and trying himself against the world. Where will he go? He will not go to the frontier; he is not thinking about it; it has ceased to exist. He is thinking of San Francisco, of Denver, of Chicago, of New York, of the industrial centers of America, and he is coming there tonight; he is marching while you sit here, to come into the labor struggle of the great industrial cities, with no knowledge of the struggle of labor for a hundred years to get hours and wages, without any knowledge of the strain and labor of countless men and women to make conditions fair. What does he want? He wants opportunities. He will work under any conditions, he will take long hours and small pay, and hope for promotion sometime. He is the ready too of this combined scab labor group to hurl against the standard of every organized trade in the land.

My friends, we can not escape! Every man of labor here has got to accept the supreme obligation of universal organization, from the man who digs the ditch to the most highly skilled mechanic in the land. There is no man too mean, there is no occupation too servile to justify your lack of organization efforts, not because they will add strength to the union in great numbers, but because the mere fact of organization among them is the protection and guarantee and sure hope of the strongest union in the land. Now, men, that is no mean job. That is a job so big and tremendous that it is only equalled by the tasks before those pioneers who dared to hope for a free nation and dared to lay its foundations on those rocky New England shores. But they had hope. Are we less worthy than our fathers of faith in the future of mankind? Shall we, in the presence of the accomplished fact of a great republic, whether or not it be wholly free—it is at least with conditions of government that give possibilities of freedom to every man and woman in the land—are we to be heard to question the power of men in society to organize all industry and make all labor honorable, not in name, but in fact?

My friends, there is a real dignity of labor in the heart of the world. The man and women who actually do feed and clothe and house this country and the world are really worthy of all honor, with all cant and humbug thrown aside. You have got to dare as much in the great pioneer work of organized labor, in the great moral and human values of this industrial struggle as the men of old, the fathers of our land, dared and braved in the interests of political and religious freedom. You are facing, as the inheritors of a great tradition, the third great

struggle in the history of civilization. At first the lines of men divided upon the question of the freedom of the human mind. For five hundred years, aye, for a thousand years, that struggle went on, and it was won. It was won for every man and woman and child. The meanest man in this Republic and western civilization can believe in one God, or seven gods, or no God, if he wants to, and there is no power of church or state can say him nay. It was no mean gain that came from that great struggle.

And then the dividing lines of mankind formed over the question of political liberty, over the right of every man to have some share in the government of which he was a part. And that struggle expresses five hundred years in which the people of England, among all the nations of the earth, led the vanguard of human progress and dared to lay down the most permanent and abiding principles on which human liberty shall forever rest. Men can not wait; the great forces of civilization move onward and forward while generation succeeds generation in the life of the world. You men who are inheritors of that great past are facing today a struggle compared with which the two great struggles that preceded seem to us as though they were but the material of a summer's day. It is not so, but it seems so. You are facing the third great problem of civilization—the problem of industrial liberty, the problem so splendidly put by the president of this great Federation when he said that the conflict waging now was upon the question of whether a man's laboring power and his purchasing power belonged to him or whether they belonged to somebody else. The problem today is to secure for every man and woman of labor in the land the right to the possession of their labor power absolutely, and the right to the possession of their purchasing power absolutely, and to have declared by the legislatures and upheld by the courts the fact that employers of America have absolutely no property right whatever in either the working power or the purchasing power of the workers. We will vindicate that right, not because some of us are eager to undertake the struggle, but because we must vindicate it. We won't be able to have any rights at all, if we don't vindicate that right, because this is an industrial age, and industrial rights take the front of the stage in the controversy of mankind.

Now, men, we can win. We can win because we are right, and because there are more of us. The whole problem today is whether we have got as much sense in getting together and standing together as the scab employers have on the one hand, or as the free working men of Great Britain had on the other hand. That is the problem. I was talking to a wise

and clever pirate of industry, one of the able men whom God gave great gifts to, who had the mind that sees, the mind that grips, the mind that analyzes, and he said "Robins, you can not win." I said, "Why?" "Why?" he said, "the fool working men of the country haven't got sense enough to get together, and as long as we keep you divided we can skin you any day in the year."

A long time ago one of the wise men of the world said, "A house divided against itself can not stand." It is as true of the great temple of human labor as of any other house built by the hands of men. That great temple has been laid course by course, and bloody fingers have handled the bricks, and hungry women have starved that it might be built, and little children have been deprived of daily food, that it might be established among men. I do not believe that the house of labor will fall; but I do know that the house of labor must cease to be divided if it shall hope to stand. A long time ago it was said that the stone which the builders have rejected has become the head stone of the corner; and the stone which the builders of empire have rejected in the history men has been the great group of toil. That stone was recovered when in the great council of the people of Great Britain there was present the members of that despised group—the group of toil—who stood there in Parliament for great human values, the greatest values for the empire that had ever been advocated in that great house of Parliament in the history of mankind. My friends, a great labor man of England, with whom some men delight to differ, but who is nevertheless the best expression of my thought of what is best in labor, is a member of the ministry of Great Britain—John Burns. He came up from the people, and whether or not he is able to stand against the temptations of the times, nevertheless he is the first man who ever sat behind the council table of Great Britain with an intimate personal knowledge of the life of men and women of toil. How long will it be before America, the great industrial nation of the world, has at the council table of her nation some man who, in his own body, has suffered the burdens of common toil, who bears on his own back some of the testimony of the common lot of poverty and labor? Men, it well becomes the Republic to have some man of labor at its council table, if for no other reason than to bear that testimony from the men and women who have made America what she is today. It was said by that brave man and follower of the simple carpenter of Nazareth, Charles Stelzle, on this platform this afternoon, that the leisure class did not make good. My friends, I want to add to that just this: The leisure class in the history of mankind never did

make good; it never will make good, because it never can. Whenever a boy or girl is raised under conditions where he does not have to work for what he gets, whenever he is surrounded by privileges and opportunity, he becomes careless and indifferent, and his mind and body is not capable of the service that the working child, if he has good food and good air and decent conditions, is capable of giving to the world.

The battle is in better shape today than ever before. More men of labor understand what their great work is to be. More men outside of labor's rank are in sympathy with the ultimate purpose, the citizenship rights of the manhood and womanhood of labor than ever before. Let us gather courage, let us dare to believe in each other, let us dare to believe in our leaders. My friends, the other fellows don'ticker and divide their forces in the face of the enemy on the day of battle. God grant that the day will come in the history of organized labor when, after we have decided what is best, we will stand together, submitting and surrendering, if need be, our personal choice in the interest of the common good. I want to say that I look forward to the unity of organized labor not behind any party—thank God, I dare to be free! I have voted the Republican ticket and the Democratic ticket, and I thought I was doing right each time, and I will vote any old ticket that looks to me as being best for the human values of this country any time it comes to the front. But, men, we have no power worth considering on the political field for any party or any principle until we get together. I don't know what the future holds. Even such a wise man as this old leader of labor, Samuel Gompers, knows not what the future holds. I do know that there is no future of any kind for us until we have sense enough to lay aside personal differences, agree on a program and then stick to the bitter end.

Men of labor, when we fought our way over Chilcote Summit and went over the glaciers of Alaska there was one truth hammered into us every day of the three years we fought the trail, and that truth was that men can only win when they stand together. One man in Alaska is a lost soul—he is as much lost as an unorganized man in a big factory. You know the condition of the unorganized man. He has that lovely liberty that some scab employers of labor preach so much about—the liberty to work twelve hours a day for fourteen cents an hour and then have his wages lowered so that his employer can contribute \$500 to the building of some nice charitable institution. It is that liberty the cat has in a tub out in the lake. The cat doesn't want to stay in the tub—of course not! The cat is at perfect liberty to jump out in the lake

any time it doesn't like the tub! That is the way with the unorganized man or woman. They do not have to stay in the shop; they can go out and starve any time they choose. In that Alaska struggle, if one man lay down the other could not go on. You could not do anything without your partner going hand in hand with you. Out of the struggle of that mighty time, and it was a mighty struggle, there came a byword in Alaska, and every one of the twenty thousand miners who risked their lives along the trail would risk his life for that word. We used to say, "Well, there are just three things in this world I hate more than any other three things, and the first one of them is a quitter, the second is a quitter, and the third is a quitter—damn him!"

Now, friends, isn't that really the doctrine of the man of labor? As a matter of fact, the man with money and labor can go it alone. He can stand the strain, but the man of labor and the woman of labor have got to stand together or they won't go anywhere. I wish that this great convention would realize how important in one aspect the organization of woman is. There are six million women in gainful occupations in the United States today. What about them? They are being used today for the purpose of breaking down hours and wages in every trade where they are not organized. Why is it that some of the sweat shops and big stores can work a girl overtime during the rush season three or four hours and send her back to her little tenement home at the end of the rush season? Why can not they work a hod carrier that way? Because they have to pay him time and a half for every minute over eight hours, because he is organized. And the women who are being exploited, who are being robbed, who are being disinherited from their right to a home and to maternity, from having little children they can call their own, are being robbed tonight simply because they are unorganized. Friends, a high court in this land has said that the great organizations of the United States of North America is a conspiracy in restraint of trade because those men told other men and women of labor, in the interests of humanity, in the interests of themselves, not to wear Loewe's hats—they were blood-stained hats. I say to you, my friends, that goods made under anti-social or immoral conditions, where there is child labor, women working overtime and men being paid less than a fair wage, are of greater injury to this country today than crime and pestilence in any other form. The time will come when the great moral value of organized labor will be recognized in this land. We talk of wages and hours. That is the first thing we have to talk about. I know two hat factories in America, one organized

and the other unorganized. They are within three blocks of each other. In the unorganized factory about a year ago a big stiff of a foreman insulted a little girl who was a hat trimmer. She stood up and told him what she thought of him, and was discharged for insubordination. She wrote a letter to the owner of the factory but never got any reply. About six months ago, in the organized factory, where these people who have been said to be in a conspiracy in restraint of trade have an organization, there was another big stiff of a foreman who tried to insult a poor, little, helpless foreign girl. Another girl, who happened to be the floor-woman of the United Hatters, looked at him and said, "You cut that out; we won't stand for it in this factory. You must apologize to that little girl." He said: "I will see you in a warmer land." She called that floor into a shop meeting; they laid down their tools and went out on the street, where she told them the situation. They said they would starve before they would go back if that man did not apologize to the little girl. The boss came down in his big automobile, went to his office and called in the foreign girl. He also called in the big stiff of a foreman, who began to weaken, as any big coward will. Let it be said to the eternal glory of that particular hat manufacturer that he had decency enough to discharge the foreman on the spot. Now, I want to submit to the universities of Colorado and America as well, I want to submit to the churches of Colorado and America as well, that the United Hatters in that particular shop had more moral value, not only to protect hours and wages, but to protect the sanctity of personal virtue and the sanctity of the home than all forces in Christendom combined. Win with a cause like that? Why, of course, we are going to win! We are going to win by the argument based upon the great human values under organized labor, we are going to throw back into the faces of those people—sometimes ignorant and honest—sometimes cunning and hypocritical—who put up to labor its dishonest leaders this statement: "Yes, we have had dishonest leaders, and the church has had dishonest preachers, and the political parties have had dishonest leaders." We will say to them: "My brothers, when you drive the crooks out of the Democratic party and the Republican party, it will be time to come to us and talk about dishonest leaders." We don't like crooks, we try to put them down and out, and sometimes we do it. The human values of organized labor will not stand for crooked work, and they are about the only values that have the courage to fight against the crooks in this country today.

Let us not have divisions regarding the future. We don't know what we are go-

ing to do. We are going to fight the fight like men, decide on a policy, and more and more of us are going to stand by that policy as one man every day that goes on from now until we win final victory. It may be that we will be with the Republicans next election. Yes, I mean that. I thank God that it is true that there are just as honest, able and sincere men, men who love liberty and justice, in the Republican party today as there ever was in any party whatever. There are the same sort of people in the Democratic party, and there are the same earnest sort of people in the Socialist party. There are honest men who voted the Independence League ticket. I don't know where we are going to go, but I do know that we are not going to amount to anything until we get together. We may be with the Republicans, we may be with the Democrats, we may be with the Socialists. They will have to settle which one of the fifty-seven varieties we are to go with; but let us, as free men leading forward the hope of this great nation, resolve to stand together, to surrender personal divisions, to look out upon a great and broad horizon that sees the future of mankind and sees the future hosts of labor marching to the music of freedom's deathless song. Let us together agree, forgetting divisions of the past, but determining upon unity for the future. Go forward to realize that great tradition of our nation, a tradition the greatest ever hoped for in the mind of man; the tradition not of a great class, not of great individuals, not of millionaires, not of Morgans and Rockefellers or that group, but the tradition of a great nation, a great people, the manhood and womanhood of that people, from the man who digs the ditch to the last exalted expression of genius, guaranteed by the law and protected by the court, and upheld by the opinion of the people; the right to a decent day's work and a decent wage for that work, the right to have a home and bring up free children to carry forward the tradition of a people that fear God, that love liberty, and that fear nothing else under heaven.

Sunday-School Teacher: "Why, Willie Wilson! Fighting again? Didn't last Sunday's lesson teach you when you are struck on one cheek that you ought to turn the other to the striker?"

Willie: "Yes'm; but he hit me square on the nose, and I've only got one."—Ex.

Tramp (whiningly): "My poor old mother hasn't seen me face for years, and—"

Lady of the House: "Well, why don't you wash it?"—Ex.

THE BUCK STOVE AND RANGE COMPANY.

The following interview, which took place at St. Louis, Mo., between Mr. VanCleave, President Buck Stove Co. and Manufacturers' Association, and committee headed by David Kreyling, Secretary Central Labor Union of St. Louis, Mo., is a good sample of what committee may expect when calling on employers to adjust grievances. Ask any representative of Labor Unions.

Note. Mr. VanCleave wishes his employes to be free and independent.

But he himself must abide by the rules laid down by one section of his union and leave the matter for them to settle for him.

Consistency, thou art a jewel of the first water.

Alas! Poor Little thou has served well. But one more sacrifice is claimed by the Mogul of the Manufacturers' Association, and in the words of Shakespeare, You're IT.

Washington Law Reporter, Washington, D. C., Dec. 25:

APPENDIX B.

Van C.: Well, gentlemen, what can I do for you?

Kreyling: I am representing the Central Trades and Labor Union, and I have come here to see if we can bring about an adjustment of this matter. We have been asked to endorse the action of the Metal Polishers, and before doing so we make such visits and very often we have been able to adjust them and avoid all further trouble. Now that is simply why I am here.

Van C.: I think that is eminently proper.

Krey.: To get your side of the story.

Van C.: The most amusing part of this whole matter to us is the false attitude in which the Metal Polishers have put themselves. The statements that they have sent out asking the co-operation of affiliated Unions are almost wholly false. As I shall undertake to show you. I take it for granted that this is about the way this matter has been put before you and other Labor Unions throughout the country, because we have received a number of these letters, which read as follows:

"I desire to inform you that this firm (meaning The Buck's Stove & Range Company) is unfair to Organized Labor. The Metal Polishers, Buffers and Platers were compelled to go on strike on account

of the unfair treatment at the hands of this firm. The members of the above union had been working nine hours per day for the past 18 months and the firm tried to force them to work ten hours per day."

That is utterly and absolutely false. There is not one iota of fact in that statement.

(Above letter continued.)

"I would be pleased to have you return the goods shipped to your firm, also notify Mr. Van Cleave, the manager of The Buck's Stove & Range Company, that your firm will refrain from making any further purchases from them until they treat their employes as they should be treated, or as other manufacturers do."

Now you see there is a complication that is so wholly false that it is strange to me that men put themselves on record in that way. I give you gentlemen the credit of being absolutely sincere in coming here and that you want the real facts from our side.

Krey.: That is what we are here for as representatives of the Central Trades and Labor Union and Metal Polishers.

Van C.: Here is a funny thing, a letter coming to us from a Local of the American Federation of Labor in October notifying us that our goods had been put on the "unpatronizing" list and then setting forth these statements which have been made as the foundation for it. The American Federation of Labor I do not suppose has acted upon this matter yet.

Lucas: I think it has.

Van C.: Has it? Now, then, the real facts in this case are these: The latter part of last year, through the action of our foreman, whom we had in our polishing department, we discovered along some time in November that our Polishers were quitting work at five o'clock, when the balance of our plant was running ten hours. I immediately made inquiry and found out that some little time they had been doing this, contrary to our rules.

About the close of last year I called all the polishers into my assembly room and told them what they had done, that they had tried to steal a nine-hour day and that we would not stand for it, because a majority of the stove foundries in this district (the western district) were running ten hours, that the balance of our foundry and all of our machinery were running 10 hours. And I said to them, there is another thing that we won't

stand for, and that is the limitation of your earnings. We regard the man that will rob his own wife and children of his earning power the biggest fool on the face of the earth, and we do not want it, and I gave them to understand that when we started up in January, after our repairs and the holidays, that our shop would run 10 hours, and you will work 10 hours, and if you don't want to do that don't come back, thus giving them about three weeks' notice. Well, they had a meeting in their Union and chewed the rag for awhile and they decided that they were all coming back, under protest. I did not get any notice of this, however, from the Union, and I do not think the men knew this. They went to work and seemingly worked very contentedly from January to the 27th of August, 1906. Our men earned more money than they ever earned before in our shop. The majority of the men who went out of our shop were earning from \$4.00 to \$5.25 per day. Our shop conditions are as good as we know how to make them, and the men will all say that we have the best shop conditions in the city of St. Louis.

Then along the early part of August Mr. Grout, the president of your organization, wrote to No. 13 and told them to pass a resolution and instruct the men working in our shop that they should quit promptly at nine hours. He did that, but I had no notice of it. The men were doing well, and they were well treated, and they thought the whole matter had been ended, and furthermore, in addition to that there are statements being made by Leberman in sending out his notices to affiliated unions that we are requiring our men to work ten hours for nine hours' pay. Now that is not true, because the men are all piece workers and they get all that they earn, and they get fairly good wages, \$4.00 to \$5.25 per day.

Lucas: Yes, that is good wages.

Van C.: Now, gentlemen, my position relative to wages has been that under no circumstances would I stand a moment for an unfair price. Then I ask that our men be fair to me and that they earn all they can. The idea of limiting a man's earnings is perfectly ridiculous, because God never made two men alike. Some men earn \$3.00, some \$4.00, and some \$5.00; that would not signify that the \$3.00 price was unfair, but simply incompetency. This man Leberman is sending out misleading statements to affiliated unions and I am very glad indeed to have you gentlemen come here because I want to show you.

We are members, as you know, of the Stove Founders' Defense Association. This matter of a nine-hour day was taken up on the 27th, 28th and 29th of June, 1906, between the conferees of the National Metal Polishers' Union and the conferees

of the Stove Founders' Defense Association. They spent three days on this subject, in Chicago. The result of it was that after a good deal of hallowing and bellowing, they could not agree and the matter was laid over.

Now, then, the reports of the Executive Committee of the Defense Association show that out of the membership of the Defense Association that 41 members are running 10 hours a day, 10 members 9 hours, 2 members 9½ hours, 1 member 56 hours per week, 4 members non-union, 3 open shops, and 4 under contract work. It was also shown that every member of the Defense Association in this district was a ten-hour shop, all of our competitors around here.

Kreyling: Why, the Belleville stove works are running nine hours, and they are members of the Defense Association.

Van C.: Are they? I didn't know that. When you view this matter from the standpoint of the conferees agreement between the two national bodies, one of which we are members, it does seem strange to me that Mr. Grout and his executive committee would order Local No. 13 to arbitrarily call a strike on us here when the real object that he should have had in view was to have a conference with the Defense Association, whereby all shops under the jurisdiction of the Defense Association should be on a nine hour basis. Again, we cannot run our shop ten hours a day, machinery ten hours a day, and have 15 or 20 polishers quit their work, and leave the machinery running, at nine hours. So that the proposition becomes an unfair one, as we look at it, and not based upon good judgment or good faith.

Take the Iron Moulders' Union many years ago. The conference agreements that they have with the Defense Association were all brought about by compromises on both sides until a good level was made. That is the way that Mr. Grout and the Metal Polishers can get an agreement as to the nine-hour day. The result of it is now, that he has taken this action. He has authorized the local here to put on a local boycott. Leberman has taken it into his hands and sent out to every affiliated union requesting their support, as I understand it, without Mr. Grout's recommendation as to a national boycott. Now, then, that puts the Defense Association in the position of fighting this thing to a finish, which they have agreed to do. Now, then, of course, if you people have affiliated unions endorse such unfair propositions as that, why of course it is coming to a show down, and public opinion is rapidly changing on these matters.

I believe, and recognize the right for every man to quit work whenever he pleases, for any cause, or for no cause on earth. We are free men, free country,

but when he quits work and then forms himself into a self-appointed committee and undertakes to picket a foundry, he is then a criminal. You took offense at what Mr. Post said. That is just what he meant.

Kreyling: If they would only explain it that way in public, but when they make the statement so broad as to include everybody that has any connection with the labor organizations, we cannot stand it.

Van C.: You simply want me to set forth these facts, and as I say, it brings the matter to a point of the Defense Association defending this matter, not The Bucks' Stove & Range Company, because it is in violation of the spirit of the conference agreements. If you demand something of the Defense Association and they cannot agree upon it, experience has taught us that if you keep at it, in the course of time justice is reached, but these men now propose to force this action, and in order to do it, they have asked you, as affiliated unions, to endorse the boycott. If you endorse this boycott, then in my opinion you come squarely in line with what Mr. Post charged you. That is the sense in which Mr. Post referred to this time.

Now when a labor union in Ohio, or in Texas, or in Oklahoma, endorses this proposition upon the statement of Leberman, which is false and can be proved so, why they get into pretty harsh lines before they get through. Now that is really my side of the question, except this, when these men went out of our shop and when they left us, they had my sympathy, but there were two or three agitators in the shop, and when they undertook to picket our plant, by this action of theirs they cut loose from me all the sympathy that I ever had for them, and we have succeeded in filling our shop, and do you know we are turning out more nickel than we ever turned out with these people here, I can prove it to you, and paying them the same prices.

Becker: If I am not misinformed, the members of the various Polishers' Unions throughout the country only work nine hours per day.

Van C.: That may be true, but we are members of the Stove Founders Defense Association.

Becker: The Belleville Stove Works are only working nine hours.

Van C.: Is that so? Well, it is a very unfair proposition for the Belleville Stove Works to do this, if it is true, and in all probability they were forced to do so, but when they tried to do it here they ran up against a different man.

Becker: Yes, they were. If the polishers were all piece workers, I do not see how nine hours would make any difference.

Van C.: It would. There is another fact, that notwithstanding that our shop was running 10 hours, the men were not doing nine hours' work.

Lucas: That nine-hour statement came around like this, unless we are misinformed, the men were informed that whenever they got the amount of \$4.00 earned to go home, regardless whether it was nine hours or ten hours, that is what Little said, and he said that it was with your knowledge and instructions.

Van C.: If Little said that, I want to denounce him here as being a liar and traitor to his company, and that it was contrary to our instructions. There is not one single word of truth in that statement. Now, then, this young man (pointing to Lee Van Cleave) was present at every meeting (which are held daily and at which Little was present) and can verify the statement that this is contrary to our rules, and if Little said that we authorized the men to do that, he was a traitor to us and he is a liar when he makes that statement.

Lucas: Well, he said that you were satisfied if the men turned out \$4.00 worth of work for them to go home.

Van C.: I would no more sanction a man's limiting his earnings than I would to fly and I have said to every man, and I say to you, that a man is a consummate fool that will rob his wife and children of his earning power. I allowed Mr. Little to piece our work. I said to Little, now I do not want a cheap price, because I want good work, and I want a fair price put upon this work.

Kreyling: I believe that you have been misinformed when you have been informed that Mr. Grout was the one that ordered this strike. No doubt this matter came about like this, that when the local organization drew up these demands and decided for themselves, after they had acted on the matter they asked for the endorsement or approval of the International Executive Board, that was granted.

Van C.: Didn't Grout send a letter to Local No. 13 as per the statement that I have made?

Lucas: Yes, similar to that.

Kreyling: The Metal Polishers No. 13 Local have demanded from The Buck's Stove Range Company to grant the nine-hour day.

Lucas: Didn't Mr. Grout come up here and visit you several times in reference to that?

Van C.: Yes, quite a while back.

Lucas: We understood that Mr. Grout had been up here to visit you, and the nature of the visit was to try and bring about an understanding as to the nine-hour day. He could not come to a settlement, and he reported back to the local.

Van C.: He took it up with the Defense Association.

Kreyling: If I understand it right, it is merely a question of asking the Buck's Stove & Range Company to grant the metal polishers the nine-hour day. Now, as yet you have gotten away from the question with all these other matters in, I have not heard Mr. Van Cleave give any reason why the Buck's Stove & Range Company refuses to grant the nine-hour day, only that you claim the other part of the foundry are working 10 hours.

Van C.: All of our competitors in St. Louis are working ten hours, and the majority of our competitors in this district are working ten hours, and besides, the Defense Association is the one to adjust this matter.

Kreyling: The action of the Defense Association leaves it open for the metal polishers to come to any final conclusion on the matter they wish. Now we certainly will grant the right to any local organization to try and shorten their hours if there is any possible chance to do so.

Van C.: I have no objections to any shorter hours.

Kreyling: In the beginning of your conversation you admitted that the polishers had worked nine hours for 18 months.

Van C.: No, I said that was false. They did not work three months.

Kreyling: They worked nine hours for quite a while.

Van C.: Only a short time.

Lee Van C.: If they quit when they got through working it was not a nine-hour day.

Kreyling: If they continued that for some time, why it was.

Van C.: There is no use to talk to me that way.

Kreyling: I just want to find out whether or not it would make any difference to you in running your foundry for 25 of the men to work nine hours or ten hours?

Van Cleave: It makes a very material difference.

Kreyling: The point that I am trying to show you is this, there is certainly not much difference to you if these men were working nine hours a day and the other part of your foundry working ten hours.

Van C.: I want to be fair, but it is not fair for you to undertake to argue that we can run all of our foundry 10 hours a day and allow 25 polishers to work nine hours. It is not fair for you to undertake to say that we ever sanctioned the nine-hour day, because Little permitted these men the latter part of 1905 to leave the shop at all hours between 4:30 and 6:00 o'clock.

Lucas: He was a representative of the firm, as foreman, and it was looked upon that you were satisfied for the men to

go home whenever they got through with their day's work.

Van C.: Now, then, I never agreed to that, and I have got evidence to prove that he was lying. It is absolutely false.

Kreyling: Do you realize, Mr. Van Cleave, that the request of the metal polishers at this time, and has been since the beginning of this controversy, is the nine-hour day? The point is this: The Buck's Stove & Range Company are not willing to grant the nine-hour work day until the Defense Association grant it.

Van C.: If the Defense Association agree to the nine-hour day to-morrow, I would put our entire shop on a nine-hour basis at once.

Kreyling: You admit that there are none of the members of the Defense Association working nine hours a day?

Van C.: I have just read the number of concerns working 10 hours and also working nine hours.

Kreyling: Now the Defense Association certainly gives the privilege to all or its members to do as they like in that matter.

Van C.: We cannot do it. Now the metal polishers will probably get the nine-hour day sooner or later, but I cannot turn this shop into a nine-hour shop today under the present situation, and it is not fair to ask me to do so.

Kreyling: This is a matter that is based on the shortening of hours from ten to nine hours. Of course, if you have made up your mind that you cannot see your way clear to grant this, it would be useless to take up any more of your time, and especially when you are not willing to listen to an argument. Any argument that we make you call it a fallacy.

Van C.: If a foreman goes beyond his instructions and violates his instructions and does it in secret without the knowledge of the company, it is like any other man that is untrue to his firm.

Kreyling: The firm will be held responsible as long as he is in that position. As I say, it would be useless to take up any more of your time if you have made up your mind that there is no way to grant the nine-hour day.

Van C.: I will grant the nine-hour day when the Defense Association agrees to it, and will make the entire shop a nine-hour day shop when they have reached this decision, and I think that is as much as you should ask of me. I am not unfair to labor at all. There is not a man in this country that appreciates his workmen more than I do.

Kreyling: There are lots of firms in this town that have granted the nine-hour day, some of them have done so without being asked to do so by the organization.

Van C.: That does not mean that the 10-hour day is unfair and that the nine-

hour day, or that the eight-hour day is the only fair man in the lot. I think if you people will broaden out a little you will see that you are the ones that are unfair, not us.

Kreyling: We are responsible for our actions, if not as an organization, as an individual, and I am willing to stand for my action at any time. We will take it for granted that you absolutely refuse to grant the nine-hour day at this time?

Van C.: I will grant the nine-hour day when the Defense Association does so. At such time that the Defense Association agrees to the nine-hour day, we will put our entire shop on the nine-hour basis. When it comes to a point that we agree with any department to run nine hours, then we will put our entire foundry on that basis. Now this is a fair proposition to me, and I cannot in honor grant it as long as I am a member of the Defense Association under present conditions. When the Defense Association agrees with the metal polishers to a nine-hour day, we will put our entire shop on nine hours. That is my position.

Kreyling: Of course the metal polishers are not responsible for the fact that the other unions are not asking the nine-hour day. We should not ask them to wait until somebody else made up their minds. We are justified in going out any time and get it if possible.

Van C.: You have the right to ask it and get it if possible, but I do not think it right to single out one institution and strike this institution. Why don't you declare them unfair?

Kreyling: It is not the fault of the metal polishers that this case is brought against the Buck's Stove & Range Company. Your foreman tolerated the reduction of hours in your polishing department and let it go on for some time.

Van C.: If the foreman does things contrary to my instructions and without my knowledge, and it runs on for a short while, why we cannot be held responsible and it does not establish a fact by any means. I am perfecting willing to abide by any agreement that the Defense Association may enter into with the metal polishers, and it would not make a particle of difference to me if they entered into it tomorrow, but until they do, I am not in a position to grant the nine-hour day. When I heard that you were coming in here, I had hoped that I would come in contact with fair men, but your proposition is anything but fair.

Kreyling: If you had an idea before I came in here that I would be fair to you and unfair to the people that I represent, you were badly mistaken.

Van C.: Well, it appears that I was.

Kreyling: Am I to understand, Mr. Van Cleave, that you are willing to arbitrate this proposition?

Van C.: The Defense Association will

take it up, I cannot take it up. This matter was discussed in June with the conferees of the two national organizations. They did not agree. Now, then, certain action was taken and then the Defense Association stepped in.

Becker: Those members of the Defense Association who are working nine hours a day, are they not unfair to their Association?

Van C.: There is another point. I will show it to you. If this matter had never gone to the Defense Association, or if I had granted the nine-hour day last year, or the year before, without discussing the matter or taking it up with the Defense Association, then I might have done so, but having once given it to the Defense Association, then it is out of my hands. I could not today do what you ask me to do without stultifying myself with the Defense Association. If Mr. Grout wants it done, he can get a conference with the Defense Association. If you people undertake to run a boycott and injure our business here, why there is absolutely no fairness in your proposition.

Becker: This matter would certainly adjust itself provided you were willing to grant the nine-hour day.

Van C.: I am willing to grant the nine-hour day provided the Defense Association agrees to it. You cannot force this company to run nine hours. This company will run ten hours as long as its competitors in the district do so. Those who are members of the Defense Association.

Lucas: Regarding what you say, now suppose that we were starting in the stove manufacturing business and would not be a member of your association, we would be competitors of yours. Now, do you think that you would do anything to help us along, or would you do everything you could to put us out of business?

Van C.: My friend, the relation that exists between myself and the other stove companies is equivalent to though we were interlaced stockholders. We do not try to put them out of business. Now, the metal polishers say that we are requiring our men to work ten hours for nine hours' pay. That is not true.

Lucas: I think there is some mistake about that, because you do not ask that, and I for one would not tolerate anything like that.

Van C.: I am in receipt of a letter this morning, which says (this letter is from a salesman): "The unions have received a general letter from the National Association, which outlines the difficulty we have had in our nickeling department, in which they state that we have forced our men in said department to work ten hours for the pay of nine, which is contrary to an agreement into which we had

entered, so they say." The truth of the matter is, no sort of an agreement as to nine hours was ever made with them, and we did not agree on nine hours. With a little bit of justice to Little (and you know that I have no patience with Little) it may be possible that he permitted the men to do this, by saying, now, boys, you can figure up your day's work just as well as I can. Now, take out \$4.00 a day and when you get through with it, so far as I am concerned, you can go home.

Lucas: He claimed he did it with your consent.

Van C.: That is not true, for he did not do so with my consent.

Lee Van C.: I do not believe that Little made that statement.

Van C.: Did Little make it to you?

Lucas: No, not to me. But they claim that he said he did so with your authority.

Van C.: Why do you people refer to that when we emphatically deny the fact?

Lucas: You admit that the men had been going home before the expiration of ten hours?

Van C.: When I discovered it, I checked it then and there. The main objection that we got to it is founded on two things. One is that it is not the rule in this section of the country among stove manufacturers. Another is, we are mem-

bers of the Defense Association. This matter has been put up to them and it is out of our hands. If Grout had handled this with the Defense Association he would have certainly have gotten the nine-hour day.

Lee Van C.: Granting the nine-hour day does not make us fair or unfair.

Kreyling: Granting the nine-hour day to the metal polishers at this time would put you in a fair light with that organization.

Van C.: Now, then, I think that the metal polishers are unfair inasmuch as they are in a signed agreement with the Defense Association, and all of these matters can be adjusted by conferences. The proper way for them to do is to ask for another conference and discuss the thing again. When they have once agreed to it there will never be another reference to it. I do not think it will be two years before all the stove shops will be on a nine-hour basis.

Becker: You must never forget the fact that your association and your class of people are not buying your stoves. They have steam heat, and the working men are using the stoves.

Van C.: Now, there is no use for you to talk like that to me. Gentlemen, you can do as you please about it.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE ON LABOR.

BY SAMUEL GOMPERS.

IN view of the utterances of President Roosevelt during the recent campaign all looked forward with keen interest to what he would say in his recent annual message to Congress. He disappointed himself as was anticipated. There was a mixture of suggestion of reform, with criticism, denunciation, abuse, and misrepresentation of all who differ in any degree from him. It is perhaps impossible to find in all our country another public man so intolerant, bitter and relentless toward any man who happens to be unable to agree with him.

The president's suggestions on the employers' liability law and the eight hour law are sound and to the point, but it is doubtful that he will publicly give credit to the sources of his mental development on this score. In so far as organized labor can work in co-operation with the reforms the president recommends, so as to secure their enactment by Congress as well as their enforcement by governmental officers, this will assuredly be done. When labor dissents from the views expressed by the president, it surely should not be counted to the discredit of our movement, our cause, or our

men, that he may have lagged in his mental development.

We wish to concern ourselves here particularly with what the press characterizes as "An Attack on Labor Leaders," in the president's message. It does not call for much discernment to infer to whom the president directs his abuse. It is doubtful that any president of the United States in an official message to Congress ever before descended to such misrepresentation and vilification of individual citizens as Mr Roosevelt has in his last annual message.

President Roosevelt absolutely misrepresents the attitude of "certain" leaders of organized labor in his sweeping denunciations. He does this knowingly and wilfully, because he has from time to time during the last seven years conferred with the "certain" and nearly all the well known officers and other representatives of labor unions, and has had ample opportunity to know how fair and just is their contention against the abuse of the injunction power by the courts, and how different their attitude from what he charges it to be. Mr. Roosevelt can not quote for he can not find any

"violent and sweeping attack upon the entire judiciary of the country" which he charges the men of labor with making.

The fact is that no representative of labor made any attack upon any individual judge or the judiciary as such. We leave such fulminations to Mr. Roosevelt. We need go no further than his present message to discover attacks upon the judiciary far more sweeping and abusive than anything we have ever thought, much less uttered. We have had occasion before to point out that in previous messages he did not hesitate to attack judges whose decisions displeased him—he, as usual, constituting himself the judge of whether or not his attack was justified.

Labor's representatives have at all times attacked the principle under which unjust decisions have been issued and never the judges who made these decisions. We refer to all that we have ever said about Justice Gould in connection with the Van Cleave Buck's Stove and Range Company's injunction—all that we have said about the Supreme Court in connection with the Danbury Hatters' decision, which classed labor unions with trusts under the Sherman anti-trust law. We refer to anything we said of President-elect Taft in connection with his history as a judge, when issuing injunctions. We have never used personal abuse as our weapon.

But to return to the message. The president says that last year before the House Judiciary Committee the "same labor leaders formulated their demands, refusing all compromise, stating they wished the principle of that bill or nothing. They insisted on the provision that in labor disputes no injunction should issue except to protect property, and specifically provided that the right to carry on business should not be construed as a property right, and in the second provision their bill made legal in a labor dispute any act or agreement by or between two or more persons that would not have been unlawful if done by a single person."

Pray, in what particular is this improper, unjust, wicked or brutal? That contention was upheld in an opinion rendered by a justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, who was later appointed by the president as a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Mr. Justice Holmes, when, in the case of *Vegeahn vs. Gunter* (167 Mass., 72), in a dissenting opinion, he said:

"But there is a notion which latterly has been insisted on a good deal, that a combination of persons to do what any one of them lawfully might do by himself will make the otherwise lawful conduct unlawful.

"It would be rash to say that some as yet unformulated truth may not be hid-

den under this proposition. But in the general form in which it has been presented and accepted by many courts, I think it plainly untrue, both on authority and on principle."

And afterwards, in 1900, Mr. Justice Holmes in the case of *Plant vs. Woods* (176 Mass., 492), sustained in the most implicit terms the secondary boycott in the most extreme form the wit of man could imagine.

Judge Holmes laid down the very principle in law for which labor contends, and upheld the legality of the secondary as well as the primary boycott, and of peaceful picketing.

Indeed, labor's contention, which has been so severely scored by the president, was in an unanimous opinion quite recently upheld by the Supreme Court of the State of Montana (*Pacific Reporter* 96, *Lindsay and Company vs. Montana Federation of Labor*).

* * * * *

Labor's contention against which the president so violently and egregiously desants himself is now the law of Great Britain, passed by the parliament of that country December, 1906.

* * * * *

President Roosevelt takes to task "certain" labor leaders who appeared before the House Judiciary Committee last year, and, for that matter, they have done the same thing for many years, "refusing all compromise, stating they wished the principle of that bill or nothing."

Pray, what would Mr. Roosevelt have us do? Compromise on a matter of principle? All can readily realize that in reformatory measures, such as laws to protect children; sanitary conditions of homes, workshops, factories, mines; safety appliances; limitation of hours of labor; employers' liability, and the like, all these are, and may be of necessity, susceptible to compromise by reason of the antagonism of our opponents in the varying stages of the development of these questions; but in a fundamental principle, involving discrimination

against the workers, in a matter of justice and equality before the law, wherein can the workers agree to compromise? Labor's contention is either right or wrong, and between these two there can be no compromise in any degree.

* * * * *

We repeat, we have never attacked individuals. We have always, in pointing out where we believed them to be in error, stated that the existence of the error showed the necessity for remedial legislation. Can Mr. Roosevelt show that we have ever insinuated, as he has, that the escape of wealthy criminals indicates something wrong with the judges who allow them to escape?

* * * * *

In this message as in many others, President Roosevelt amuses himself and diverts the public by turning out a great many half-baked economic theories. He carefully balances each assertion on one side by another diametrically opposite, so that the net result so far as sense is concerned is nothing at all. We are convinced that President Roosevelt is trying to befog the issue. He talks loudly and airs his personal grievances, alike against "certain" labor leaders, legislators, judges and capitalists—anybody who has dared to disagree with him is guilty of *lese majeste* and to be pilloried in the presidential message.

His great assumption of sympathy for labor is nullified by the fact that he is not willing to advise the enactment of a

single important measure involving the essence of equal justice and human liberty.

* * * * *

The whole sum of labor's offending is that it had the courage to assert its political independence in a campaign. It declared that it would support those who were its friends and attempt to defeat its opponents. Mr. Roosevelt hotly resents this independent attitude of labor. He may try to hide it, but he manifestly regards labor as a force to be cajoled and flattered, or brow-beaten, and abused at the whim of Executive, Congress or court. His amazement and anger know no bounds at this determination of labor to stand upright and assert its manhood and independence.

BELGIUM'S POSTAL BANKS.

Across a narrow sea from England is a little country which, though densely populated, has practically no paupers, nor do the people emigrate. This is thrifty Belgium, where there is thrift of the individual, thrift of the family, co-operative thrift, national thrift and prosperity in the face of the keenest competition of its powerful neighbors, England, France and Germany.

The government, instead of paying old age pensions and dispensing charity, has machinery for the encouragement of thrift, and thereby for the prevention of dependence. It pays the individual interest on his savings, it insures his life and it will give him an annuity if he saves to pay for it.

In the government savings bank, deposits may be made in every postoffice of the kingdom, and in all branches of the national bank. The minimum deposit is one franc. There is no maximum. Deposits are made by special adhesive deposit stamps, which are, in reality, receipts for the money paid in, and which are pasted in a bank book delivered to each depositor free of charge and bearing an official number. In this book is entered every transaction between the depositor and the bank, including the calculating of interest, which is done annually. Depositors may correspond with the national savings bank free of postal charges, and after the issue of a book a depositor may put money in any post-office of the kingdom.

The government provides in a special way for those who cannot put aside so large a sum as a franc at a time. It

authorizes smaller deposits by postage stamps in order to encourage school children, farm laborers and the like; and rural postmen carry with them the necessary forms for this purpose, and urge the public to make use of the savings banks in this way.

Life annuities may be contracted for at all branches of the savings bank, at all branches of the national bank, at all postoffices and at the office of all tax receivers.

The minimum payment that may be made is one franc, and the smallest annuity paid by the fund is one franc, while the largest is 1,200 francs. The annuities become payable at the end of each completed year from the age of fifty to sixty-five.

Annuities are contracted for in two ways, by paying in the capital benefit to any heir, and by providing that the capital, less 3 per cent for general expenses, shall be paid over to the heirs after the death of the beneficiary. Any person who depends solely upon his own work for his sustenance, and who, before the age stipulated for the payment of the annuity, become disabled, is allowed to draw at once an annuity calculated from the amount of the payments made up to the time of his becoming incapacitated.

In addition to the annuity fund there is a government insurance fund, the management of which is under government guarantee. Life or endowment policies may be contracted for, the latter payable at the end of ten, fifteen, twenty or twenty-five years, or for a period ending at the ages of fifty-five, sixty or sixty-five. —Exchange.

THE DOUGLAS CONTROVERSY.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 22, 1908.

To Whom it May Concern:

Enclosed herewith you will find copy of a letter written by Vice President James Duncan, of the American Federation of Labor, copy of a letter from General President Tobin of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union to President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, dealing with the Duncan letter, and copy of resolutions adopted by the Brockton Shoe Council, the Executive Central Body representing 14,000 members in twelve local unions of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, located at Brockton, Mass., in which bodies the present and past Douglas employes hold membership.

In a circular issued by Mr. Douglas under date of 12th inst., in the company's extensive advertising and in their correspondence, as well as in other advertising in which they publish the Duncan letter, they misquote the letter in the sub-headings in an endeavor to make it appear that the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union insisted on the Douglas Co. repudiating arbitration decisions.

We state most emphatically that we have never made any demand upon the Douglas Co. to repudiate any decision. We complied with all decisions until the termination of our contract. In the exercise of our right to refuse to make another contract with the Douglas Co., we are protesting against the repudiation by that company of an established wage list in their No. 1 factory which was made by arbitration and by mutual agreement, and we are protesting against the substitution of a lower price list in place of the No. 1 price list. We are protecting 20,000 of our members in the Brockton district against the lower standard of wages established by the Douglas Co.

We dispute the statements of Vice President Duncan that this company is running strictly union factories and point to the fact that they are operating strictly non-union factories in Springvale, Maine and Nashua, N. H., both low wage centres, to which factories they have now transferred the work upon which they se-centres, to which factories they have now operating under a much lower scale of wages, said to be nearly fifty per cent lower than the Brockton scale previously paid by this company. Our latest information is that the company has secured a factory at Marlboro, Mass., which is also a low wage, non-union city.

Please bear in mind that good shoes are always made where high wages and good conditions prevail, and that cheap and inferior shoes are made where low wages

exist, as in Nashua, N. H., Springvale, Me., and Marlboro, Mass.

We express our appreciation to all who have lent their support in the interest of our union and the union stamp, thereby assisting us to maintain arbitration and collective bargaining, which have been the bulwark of our organization.

Sincerely yours,

Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

By C. L. BAINE,

General Secretary-Treasurer.

QUINCY, Mass., Dec. 8, 1908.

MR. JOHN TOBIN,
President Boot and Shoe Workers'
Union, 246 Summer Street, Boston,
Mass.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L., held last month in Denver, Col., I submitted a full report on the subject matter which had been referred to Vice President Mitchell and myself, at the September, 1908, meeting of the Executive Council, held in Washington, in reference to the them, and now, pending dispute between your union and the W. L. Douglas Co., about continued use of the Boot & Shoe Workers' Union stamp by that company on its product.

All the correspondence which had passed between your office and me was read and considered, and lengthy discussion ensued as to what more could be done by the A. F. of L. through its assistive policy, especially as you had practically ignored our previous overture to be of assistance in continuing friendly relations between your union and a large and strictly union boot and shoe factory, operated by a man who had, to our personal and official knowledge, voluntarily declared in favor of a union factory, and the use of your union stamp on the product of the firm. Ordinarily we would have awaited your solicitation of our services, but this does not seem to be an ordinary occasion, and after due deliberation our Executive Council directed that this letter be sent to you, and a copy of it mailed to the W. L. Douglas Co.

As intimated in previous correspondence, our Executive Council stands ready to be of any possible assistance to mutually and satisfactorily adjust the pending dispute, whereby your union stamp may again be in use in the W. L. Douglas Co.'s factory on its output, and will promptly respond when you or your Executive Board invites our co-operation. The Douglas Co. has already invited our friendly assistance, so action on our part depends on your invitation.

It is impossible that adjustment is insurmountable where so much real union interest is involved, viz.: the development of your union, the welfare of such a large number of boot and shoe workers, and the great public which, very largely through the course followed by the W. L. Douglas Co. has been educated to the purchase of union made and union stamped boots and shoes; and the A. F. of L., second only to your union, has its responsibility, and if it is not permitted to do whatever may be possible in the circumstances, the public has a right to know, and must be informed of what prevents adjustment.

The correspondence submitted to us by the W. L. Douglas Co. (all of which you had submitted to you) shows that months before the termination of the stamp contract, some one was hitting that company "under the belt" by spreading information broadcast that the firm was about to lose the right to use the stamp. The letters bear date of July 25 to August 6, 1908, and the statement was certainly not sent out by the Douglas Co., for it resented the allegation, and showed its desire to continue to run a union shop, and to use the union stamp, by asking our Executive Council, under date of September 2, 1908, to make a friendly investigation into the pending dispute, and to be helpful in maintaining stamp-contract relations with your union, and even now, with the stamp withdrawn, the firm employs in all of its operating departments none but members of your union. The failure to maintain union-stamp relationship with the firm under such circumstances looks to us like a mistake, the more so when the following facts are placed in comparison. Your letter on this subject to me of October 10, 1908, shows, for instance, that the "Hamilton-Brown Shoe Co. of St. Louis operates three non-union factories in that city, and have one factory in which they use union stamp No. 4. Hamilton-Brown shoes bearing union stamp No. 4 are union-made, and all their other shoes, that do not bear the union stamp, are non-union." Here then is an instance where a firm, employing over two-thirds non-union workers, has the use of your union stamp for less than one-third of its product, while in the W. L. Douglas Co.'s factory, with one hundred per cent union employees, and the average wages said to be the highest paid anywhere, and the employer so anxious to use the stamp that he invites outside assistance to that end, yet is denied the emblem or stamp of the all-union product he turns out. Other instances similar to the above could be mentioned, but are unnecessary.

During the sessions of the Denver convention the leaflet was freely circulated, which your union has published about the

union stamp not now being on the W. L. Douglas shoe. It reached the delegates by mail in your office envelope, and created surprise from the fact that in the several changes which have taken place in your official book of stamp-using firms, no such notices have reached the A. F. of L. conventions, nor the affiliated unions, about other firms who had been dropped from the list. Had the Douglas Co. been known as an antagonistic firm, the surprise would not have been noticeable, but when we all have been so used to the stamp on those shoes, and were invited, as recent as our Norfolk convention, to congratulate the Douglas Co. by vote for maintaining its contract relations with your union, even to the extent of disciplining a rebellious local, the plentiful dissemination of the leaflets in question was noticeable. The Denver convention, of course, as the delegates of your union will testify, was neither called upon, nor did it in any way take action on this dispute. The discussion herein referred to was confined to an Executive Council meeting, and on my report.

Our Executive Council doubts the wisdom of arbitrarily depriving a strictly union factory of the use of the union stamp, especially when in that factory good working conditions, and high wages, are admitted to exist. It questions the advisability of making a trade agreement with a firm and then punishing it by withdrawal of the union stamp for exercising the provisions of that agreement, the more so as that document contained the essential qualification to an up-to-date trade agreement—the pacific adjustment of disputes, without the intervention of strikes or lockouts.

As a greatly interested third party the A. F. of L.—i. e., those it both directly and indirectly represents—is very desirous to see this contention terminated in a rational, and, therefore, fair and equitable manner, and believes that if the proper spirit of practical adjustment is utilized that this can be accomplished. Its Executive Council stands ready to assist; the W. L. Douglas Co. has intimated its desire to continue a strictly union shop, and to use the union stamp, and this desirable consummation seems to be possible if a like spirit is manifested by the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. We will await the outcome with more than ordinary interest, and, in closing, hope that better judgment will prevail, to the end that all desiring to do so may continue to wear union-stamped, Douglas-made boots and shoes.

By direction of the Executive Council,
A. F. of L.

Fraternally yours,

JAMES DUNCAN.

M.

First Vice President.

RECENT DUNCAN LETTER DE- FLORED.

Joint Shoe Council Claims A. F. of L. Rules Violated.

At a meeting of the Brockton Joint Shoe Council, held Wednesday, Dec. 16, 1908, the following document deploring the recent letter of James Duncan, Vice President of the American Federation of Labor, was adopted and a copy sent to the General Officers of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union:

BROCKTON, Mass., Dec. 16, 1908.

This council, as the representative body of the local unions of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, having previously referred the Douglas matter to the General Executive Board, and unanimously indorsed its handling of the case up to date with the approval of our several local unions and a shop's crew meeting of the Douglas employes held on June 27, 1908, unanimously declared themselves in favor of the course being pursued.

The principles involved in this controversy are of vital importance to our union in maintaining a standard of wages established in part by mutual agreement and in a large part by decisions of the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration.

We declare ourselves as unalterably opposed to any scheme of transfer or manipulation of a wage list either in part or whole that has the effect of changing wages mutually agreed upon, or wages fixed by any board of arbitration, to be out of harmony with the established practices of our union and inconsistent with the recognized principles of trade agreements.

This council again places itself on record as opposed to the making of any contract with the W. L. Douglas Shoe Co. unless wages and conditions that existed prior to January 2, 1908, are fully restored.

We declare our loyalty to the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, to the American Federation of Labor and to its Executive Council, but deplore the letter of Vice President Duncan of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, and the publication thereof, bearing upon the Douglas question.

We are of the opinion that the Duncan letter is in conflict with Section 2 of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor, which reads as follows:

"Section 2. Article 1. Objects. The establishment of national and international trade unions based upon a strict recognition of the autonomy of each trade, the promotion and advancement of such bodies."

This Section, as we understand, guarantees to us the right to pass upon all questions pertaining to our craft in accordance with our judgment. We also understand this section to mean that the

A. F. of L. will at all times seek to promote the interests of our union, while the letters were used to promote the interests of the Douglas Company as against the union, and in the absence of any hearing wherein representatives of our union were given an opportunity to be heard.

THE UNION SIDE

*Given in a Letter to Sampel Gompers, as
Follows:*

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 10, 1908.

MR. SAMUEL GOMPERS,
President American Federation of
Labor, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: No doubt you are in receipt of a letter from General Vice President Collis Lovely of our organization, enclosing a copy of a letter dated 8th inst. from First Vice President James Duncan, of the American Federation of Labor, bearing on the Douglas controversy. Also enclosed with copy of letter was a printed copy of the same clipped from *The Enterprise*, of Brockton, Mass., on the 9th inst.

While we were much surprised at the language used by Vice President Duncan in his letter, as well as at the faulty conclusions which he reached, our surprise gave way to indignation when we learned within an hour after receiving the letter that it was in type in the office of a Brockton newspaper. The fact that this letter was to be published gave rise to the suspicion in our minds that the contents of the letter would be used by the Douglas Company as a substitute for the Union stamp, and we are filled with mingled shame and indignation that a prominent official of the American Federation of Labor should so far commit himself to the protection of what he may choose to consider the rights of an employer as against an affiliated union, especially so as he has gleaned all of his information, if information he has, from a member of our organization who is employed by the Douglas Company for the very purpose for which he has lent himself.

This is especially surprising because of the fact that Brother Duncan is in possession of the company's side of the case only, and with their distortion of our position in the matter and utter disregard of the facts, as we have not, up to date, placed our case before the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor. Therefore, our conclusion that the letter of Vice President Duncan was to be used by the company for advertising purposes, you will find, is fully justified by reference to the enclosed newspaper clippings from which I quote the display headings, as follows:

In the *Boston Traveler* of Dec. 9, the same day we received Brother Duncan's letter, appears the following heading:

LABOR MAN IN PRAISE OF DOUGLAS FIRM.

VICE PRESIDENT OF A. F. OF L.
CHIDES SHOEMAKERS' UNION.

* * *

Boston Transcript of Dec. 9:

DOUGLAS UPHELD.

VICE PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF LABOR WRITES
TO PRESIDENT OF BOOT AND SHOE
WORKERS' UNION ON THE CON-
TROVERSY.

* * *

Boston American of Dec. 9 (evidently a
paid ad.):

DUNCAN URGES SHOE WORKERS TO
END FIGHT.

A. F. OF L. LEADER WRITES TOBIN
SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE MADE
WITH DOUGLAS CO.—DISCUSSES
CONTROVERSY.

* * *

The Enterprise, Brockton, Mass. Dec. 9:

W. L. DOUGLAS CO. UPHELD BY A. F.
OF L. IN CONTRACT ISSUE.

DUNCAN SO ASSERTS AND CANDID-
LY REBUKES B. & S. W. U.

* * *

Boston Journal, Dec. 10:

FEDERATION SAYS UNIONS DID
WRONG. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DE-
PLORES ACT OF BROCKTON SHOE
WORKERS' ASSOCIATION.

* * *

Boston Post, Dec. 10 (also evidently a
paid ad.):

A. F. OF L. UPHOLDS DOUGLAS
SHOE CO.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' UNION
DECLARED TO BE IN THE WRONG
IN STAMP CONTROVERSY.

* * *

There appears every evidence in the
attitude of Vice President Duncan that
he has made this a personal matter, and
evidently resents what he supposes is an
affront from our organization because
we did not place the adjustment of the
Douglas controversy in his hands. We
admit that this is only assumption on our
part, but it is a fairly reasonable one and
justified, we believe, because of the totally
unheard of propositions which he sets up
as a justification for his course.

We can very well picture the indigna-
tion of Brother Duncan if any person
representing any other trade should as-
sume the monumental cheek of undertak-

ing to pass upon the merits of any dis-
pute between his organization and any
employer in the granite business.

During the meeting of our General Ex-
ecutive Board, held at this office the lat-
ter part of last October, the correspond-
ence from Vice President Duncan, an-
nouncing his appointment together with
Vice President John Mitchell to take up
the Douglas matter with us, which came
before the Executive Council of the A.
F. of L. at the solicitation of the Douglas
Company, was carefully considered, and
as the only communication from the
Douglas Company to the American Feder-
ation of Labor which we had any knowl-
edge of dwelt with allegations that the
letters we were sending out in answer to
inquiries relative to the dispute did not
fairly represent the company, and in no
respect did the Douglas letters request
the good offices of the American Feder-
ation of Labor to intercede, our General
Executive Board made a courteous re-
sponse to Vice President Duncan indicat-
ing that if the company desired to con-
tinue contract relations and if the Exe-
cutive Council could be in any way helpful
we would be glad to ask for their co-
operation. This is the last we heard from
that source upon the subject until the re-
ceipt of Vice President Duncan's letter
of the 8th inst., in which he states that
all correspondence which has passed be-
tween this office and himself was read and
considered, and a lengthy discussion en-
sued as to what could be done by the
A. F. of L. through its assistive policy.

We are surprised to learn that a
lengthy discussion in the council took
place over the correspondence passing be-
tween us upon this subject during its ses-
sions held at Denver last month, especial-
ly as five delegates representing our or-
ganization were in attendance at the con-
vention, including General Secretary-
Treasurer C. L. Baine, who were not
called before the council to impart any
information calculated to assist in reach-
ing a correct conclusion.

We again thank the Executive Council
for expressing its readiness to be of any
possible assistance to mutually and satis-
factorily adjust the pending dispute
whereby our union stamp may again be
in use by the W. L. Douglas Shoe Co.,
and we repeat what we have stated be-
fore: That if the time ever arrives when
our organization desires to resume con-
tract relations with the Douglas Company
and it seems to us that the Executive
Council can in any way act as mediators
or render assistance of any kind, we will
surely avail ourselves of the opportunity
which is extended; first, because it is so
freely offered, and, second, because it is a
function of the American Federation of
Labor to assist affiliated unions when
called upon.

You will pardon me if I frankly state that we see a vast distinction between this assistive policy and the dictatorial policy with which the letters of Vice President Duncan upon this subject bristles in every line. The boasted and successful policy of the American Federation of Labor as distinct from the Knights of Labor in the exercise of trade autonomy by affiliated organizations is not in evidence, at least as far as Brother Duncan is concerned.

We have too much respect for the members of the Executive Council, individually and collectively, to believe that this letter written by First Vice President Duncan was in all its terms the joint work of the council. While we do not question its being authorized and that discretionary power was conveyed to Vice President Duncan, we feel that he has assumed authority not vested in him and not even vested in the Executive Council, if proper recognition of trade jurisdiction is to operate.

Brother Duncan makes the same mistake as some others have made who are advocates of the Douglas side of this controversy, and that is that a contract with this company is essential to our success. We desire to correct any such impression, and confidently assert that we do not share in this view. To make a contract with the Douglas Company under which we would surrender the smallest atom of our contentions would mean disaster to our union, and with becoming modesty we assert that having played no small part in assisting the Douglas Company to become one of the largest and richest shoe manufacturing concerns in the world, we are in a position second to none to determine what is best calculated to promote the future welfare of our union.

We desire also to say that when in doubt upon any question as to what is good trade unionism, we have sought and will seek advice from higher and better informed sources than we have within our own union: but in this case we are not in a condition of doubt, but, on the contrary, confident of the correctness of our position from either an ethical, trade union, humanitarian or any other standpoint. We are prepared to discuss this question at any length and under any circumstances, but we will positively not surrender the right to say when or where we will or will not make a contract with an employer.

With reference to that portion of Vice President Duncan's letter where he draws attention to the great public which was educated to the purchase of union made and union stamped boots and shoes through the course followed by the W. L. Douglas Shoe Co., we desire to say that for the first nine years of our contract relations with the Douglas Company they

left us no room to complain, but with the change of policy introduced by the company during the recent panic, coupled with the withdrawal of Mr. Douglas himself from the active management of the business and his long continued absence from the factory, a new policy has grown up with which we are familiar and which justifies us in our conclusions, which are the result of daily intercourse, which advantage Vice President Duncan has not enjoyed.

Another paragraph of Vice President Duncan's letter is worthy of comment, wherein he states that the correspondence submitted by the Douglas company previous to the termination of the contract shows that some one was hitting the company "under the belt" by spreading information broadcast that the firm was about to lose the right to use the stamp. It should be remembered that the Douglas company, being large advertisers, have facilities for getting into the newspapers, and the constantly repeated publication of alleged information to the trade evidently at the instigation of the Douglas company, such as "The Douglas Controversy Settled," "The Douglas Company Pays \$12,000 in Back Pay. Controversy Ended," etc., etc., was calculated to lead the shoe dealers and the consuming public to a wrong conclusion, and in all cases where inquiry was made we made a very conservative statement to the effect that there was a controversy which we hoped to settle, and at other times, later in the dispute, we said there was a probability that the contract and the union stamp would not be continued.

During this entire controversy we have been on the defensive. We have not sought nor do we seek to place the Douglas company on the unfair list, but, having advertised them in the beginning as having adopted the union stamp, we believe we have a right now to say that they have discontinued the union stamp, and we have said so and will continue to say so in the same conservative manner as we have practiced up to date. And the plentiful dissemination of leaflets to which Brother Duncan refers is the exercise of a right which we believe to be moral and legal.

It is true, as stated by Brother Duncan, that the Norfolk convention of the A. F. of L., in November, 1907, congratulated the Douglas Company by vote for maintaining its contract relations with our union. We were pleased to advocate and vote for this resolution, which, by the way, was prepared at the instigation of a member of our organization employed by the Douglas Company, and was a form of free advertising which has been frequently practiced at conventions through the same source.

Vice President Duncan states that the Executive Council doubts the wisdom of

arbitrarily depriving a strictly union factory of the use of the union stamp, especially when in that factory good working conditions and high wages are admitted to exist. If the Executive Council will ask us to submit our case, and when in possession of all the facts, then doubts the wisdom of our course, due consideration will be given to such a conclusion. We desire to ask: By whom has it been admitted that good working conditions and high wages exist at the Douglas factory since the transfer and wholesale reduction in wages at the Douglas factories? Certainly not by our organization or any one authorized to speak for us. Possibly this admission has been made solely by the Douglas Company or its emissaries. Our General Executive Board is unanimous in its conclusions upon this subject. The Brockton Shoe Council, the executive body of our twelve local unions in that city, is unanimous in approval of the course of our General Executive Board. All of our twelve local unions are equally committed, and 1,500 of the Douglas employees in meeting voted unanimous approval.

We agree with the conclusions of Brother Duncan in the necessity for the pacific adjustment of disputes without the interventions of strikes or lockouts, and we point with pardonable pride to the fact that the policy of our union has almost entirely eliminated the strike and lockout from the shoe trade, and we take second place to no organization in this respect.

In closing, we regret the ill chosen language and dictatorial attitude assumed by Vice President Duncan, and believe that if a better spirit had been manifested by him and better judgment brought into play, not only in this recent letter, but in all his previous communications upon this subject, the breach between our union and the company would be less wide than it is today.

We had hoped that it would not be necessary for us to make any public proclamation of disagreement with any member of the Executive Council, but we feel fully justified by reason of the fact that correspondence between the council and this office has not been treated in the usual manner; consequently, in self defense we are obliged to resort to the public press in defense of our course and for the purpose of defending the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration against the assertion contained in Brother Duncan's letter that the Douglas company pays an average wage said to be the highest paid anywhere, notwithstanding the substantial reduction which has taken place from the wages established by the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration, which wages were originally made by the State Board based upon the wages paid in competing factories making the same grade of shoes.

Faternally yours,

JOHN F. TOBIN,
General President.

GREAT MEN REMAIN OBSCURE.

PROPHETS long have been known to receive honors save in their own land. But even in foreign parts many of the greatest are relatively without recognition. Like the gold and silver and precious stones that are hidden in the earth, and like the impalpable air that sustains our life, and like the invisible electricity that does our work, some of the most forceful, vitalizing, useful of the world's citizens are those whose work is unknown, whose personalities are obscure, whose value is not at all evident to the world whom they sustain and nourish with their teeming thought.

This is one of the findings of Lester F. Ward, himself a luminous instance of the concealment of the great. Although the sociologists of America pronounce him facile princes among them, and although there have been appreciations from abroad, even the foreign scientific circles are largely unacquainted with his momentous contributions to knowledge. and as for the world at large the author

of "Dynamic Sociology," of "Pure and Applied Sociology," with their epoch making ideas, is a nonentity. The facts in turn which Dr. Ward has mustered in support of his magnificent theories are themselves the unrenowned croppings of innumerable laboratories and almost unknown men, scientific investigators pursuing their toilsome researches with little fame and less fortune, apostles, albeit, of human gladness and comfort, priests in the cult of truth and reason. It is they that discover the laws which lesser minds can apply, that gives us our wireless telephones, our airships, our turbines, our serums.

But the world knows less about the greatest among them than it tells of in every evening's entra-actes above the average chorus lady of the average play, less than it chatters every morning about the average fighter in the average ring, less than it argues every afternoon about the average politician of the average plank and party.—By Ada May Kreckler.

MEXICAN LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES.

"Mexican Labor in the United States" is the subject of an article by Dr. Victor S. Clark, in Bulletin No. 78 of the Bureau of Labor of the Department of Commerce and Labor.

Within less than a decade there has been a large increase in the amount of Mexican labor employed in the United States, but more marked even has been the increasing range of its distribution. As recently as 1900, immigrant Mexicans were seldom found more than a hundred miles from the border. Now they are working as unskilled laborers and as section hands as far east as Chicago and as far north as Iowa, Wyoming, and San Francisco. The number of different industries in the southwest which are dependent upon Mexican labor is increasing. In some occupations Mexicans are rapidly displacing Japanese and Greeks, and even Italians.

Lack of education and of natural initiative confine most of these immigrants to the simple forms of unskilled labor. They compete little, if at all, with native or the better class of immigrant labor. They work and are contented in the desert where Europeans and Orientals become dissatisfied or are unable to withstand the climate. The majority of the immigrants are transient laborers, and seldom remain more than six months at a time in the United States. Except in Texas and in California, few become permanent residents.

Compared with the numbers of Italians and Slavs coming in upon the Atlantic coast, the number of the Mexican immigrants is still small—between 60,000 and 100,000 a year. They are, however, entering a sparsely settled territory which has a great demand for labor. Their immigration is having important economic effects for Mexico as well as the United States. And it is becoming an agency of something approaching a social revolution among the Mexican laboring classes.

The Mexican immigrants are mostly from the peon and from the migratory labor class, from a region where agriculture and mining are the chief employments. They are of Indian blood with a slight infusion of white blood, but Indian in physique, temperament, character and mentality.

Brought from the farms and mines to work upon the railways of northern Mexico, the Mexican laborer, drawn by the higher wage paid in the United States, is easily attracted across the border, where the mine, the railway, the cotton field, and other employments have furnished work for increasing numbers each year.

As a laborer the Mexican immigrant is said to be unambitious, physically not strong, and somewhat indolent and irregular, but against this is put the fact that he is docile, patient, orderly in camp, fairly intelligent under competent supervision, obedient, and cheap. His strongest point with the employer is his willingness to work for a low wage. At the wage and under the conditions under which he will work, he is, by many employers, preferred to the Italian, Greek, Japanese and other labor which is available.

As the Mexican immigrant does the lowest grade work at the lowest wages, he has not come to be regarded with any well-defined race prejudice. The fact that he is not socially or industrially ambitious, like the European and Asiatic immigrants, count very much in his favor with white workers. The economic competition of the Mexican immigrant is not with the American, but between him and the Italian, the Greek, and the Japanese.

For Mexico itself, the social and economic effects of the emigration to the United States are important and likely to be far reaching. Labor in Mexico is not adequate to the demand of the country's expanding industries. Therefore, the emigration to the United States, though it withdraws from the labor market but a small fraction of the total supply, is having a decided influence upon wages. Not only does it make the existing shortage more acute, but the influence of the many returning emigrants has already been to educate local labor to higher wage demands.

The rise of wages and shortage of labor in Mexico is being met by the importation of orientals. Mining and railway companies especially—but also planters—are already importing many thousands of Chinese and Japanese. There is no effective public sentiment against this policy in Mexico, as in the United States.

The Mexican laborer, returning to his own country from the United States, carries back a new and higher standard of living. He has become accustomed to better—or at least different—clothing, more varied food, and a greater variety of wants. This rapidly has its effect upon the community to which he returns.

So long as the Mexican immigration is transient, it is not likely to have much influence upon the United States, except as it regulates the labor market in a limited number of unskilled occupations and probably within a restricted area. For transient labor is not likely to be largely employed beyond a certain radius from El Paso and the Rio Grande, or to enter

lines of employment in which it competes with citizen labor. But the Mexicans are making their homes in the United States in increasing numbers year

by year, and being assimilated by the Spanish-speaking population of the southwest, are forming the civic substratum of our border states.

GOOD ADVICE.

Trim the wick in the lamp of reason so that you will be able to see the way that you and your fellow trade unionists must travel to secure success. The labor movement, generally speaking, has been the sufferer from inattention, it has been staggering under a fearful load of indifference, saddled on its back by those who should be up and doing all the time. The action of the Supreme Court at Washington and its decisions are as pebbles on the path of progress compared with the hordes of indifferent card men and women, who either will not or cannot see the need of getting together and sticking together for their advancement and future welfare.

The courts can and do offer impediments of a character that mean much, but the real, live, up-to-date trade union member knows full well that courts cannot force you to purchase non-union labeled goods, nor can they compel you to patronize those establishments where union labor is barred by reason of its non-employment therein. If we would but agitate "full meeting rooms" as we do other things that are allegedly full,

there would be little reason to fear for the future of union labor. We must get over the habit of just paying our dues alone! We must attend the conference of our fellows; we need all the energy and brains in our union to overcome obstacles, and these can best be obliterated by active participation in labor's cause, the purchasing of nothing that does not bear the union label, the bearing of our share of the burden, and our general co-operation to the end of fully emancipating all those who toil by the sweat of their brow. Remember that "he serves well who dares to be true," and the trade unionist that cannot see the wisdom of doing his share in the work needs the service of something besides an oculist; he requires an injection of good, hard, common horse sense, and the only way he will seemingly get what's coming to him is the route prepared by the opponents of human progress. The court was never organized that can force labor to quit its mission of protecting the frail and aiding the distressed; all that we as members need to do is our duty to ourselves.—Mixer and Server.

ASIATIC EXCLUSION LEAGUE.

San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 10, 1908.

To the Officers and Members of International Brotherhood Electrical Workers of America:

DEAR SIRS AND BROTHERS—In compliance with instructions, I respectfully wish to call your attention to the enormous amount of work facing the Asiatic Exclusion League, and it is our special desire that our cause be forwarded in every possible manner during the present session of Congress.

There is no hope for the protection of the white man, except through absolute Asiatic exclusion by national law. There is no force or influence operating so strongly towards that end as is the Asiatic Exclusion League. The interests of every white man on American soil are involved in the question of Asiatic exclusion.

The character of your organization and the necessity of self preservation, as well as the inspiration of patriotic sentiments, should impel you to lend the League

every assistance you can. Your representatives should embrace every opportunity to speak on this serious problem, and your journal should publish from time to time such extracts that it can, and by so doing your general influence will be known and felt in favor of the exclusion movement, and the perpetuation of the high standard of the white man's living.

The League desires the advice and counsel of every friend of the white man, hence your assistance is a necessary factor as an aid in the advancement of national exclusion laws.

The most important problem now before our League is how to most quickly and effectively overcome the apathy of the people of the Eastern states, in order that members of Congress from that part of the nation may be urged by their constituencies to support our cause in the halls of national legislation. The only way we may attain our end is for the Pacific coast to lead the way through

solid organization. The head and front of the exclusion movement has been and is the Asiatic Exclusion League. It has been of untold advantage and benefit in the circulation of literature and in the forwarding of legislation.

We, therefore, respectfully request that you forward the enclosed petitions to your congressman and senator (under seal), and further ask that your print one similar in character in your valuable paper, with an explanatory paragraph requesting your subscribers to sign and mail same to their congressman. The more individual petitions sent the better, as it will create a healthy public sentiment, which will prove to our lawmakers in Washington the necessity of of an exclusion law written upon the statute books.

In behalf of the League I desire to thank you for the past interest you have shown in this all important question, and trust that you will redouble your efforts until the objects for which the League has been instituted will have been accomplished.

With best wishes for the continued success of your organization, together with the compliments of the season, I have the honor to remain,

Very sincerely and fraternally,

A. E. WOELL, *Secy-Treasurer.*

PETITION.

Hon.....
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.....190..

The Undersigned Hereby Respectfully Requests:

That you use your voice towards the enactment of an exclusion law which will effectually prevent the immigration into the United States of all Asiatics, excepting merchants, students and travelers, and further,

That the said Act contain provisions that merchants, students and travelers, when found performing manual labor, shall be deported, and further,

That provisions similar to the Geary Registration Law be embodied in any exclusion law that may be enacted and that such law, when enacted, be made perpetual in its action, and further,

That you protest against and oppose any constitutional amendment or treaty provision intended, or which might be used, to extend the right of naturalization to Asiatics.

(Signed).....
.....

IRRESPONSIBLE BODY THE GERM OF DISSOLUTION OF THE REPUBLIC.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, one of America's greatest statesmen, and a true defender of personal liberty and human rights, after having written the Declaration of Independence and helped to launch the American republic, watched the government for years, and with a vision that was truly prophetic gave expression to the following words:

"It has long been my opinion, and I have never shrunk from its expression, that the germ of dissolution of our federal government is in the judiciary, an irresponsible body working like gravity, by day and by night, gaining a little today and gaining a little tomorrow, and advancing its noiseless step like a thief over the field of jurisdiction until all shall be usurped from the state, and the government of all become consolidated into one. To this I am opposed, because when all government, in little and great things, shall be drawn to Washington as the center of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided by one government on another, and will become as venal and oppressive as the government from which we separated."

How accurately he located the danger and described the future! The encroachments and usurpation of the federal courts upon the guaranteed rights of persons are most astounding in pretension and usurpation of power.

This scheme of government by injunction, under which the judge becomes at once legislator, judge and executioner, is indeed an alarming state of affairs. Sitting in his chambers, and without notice to anybody, he issues an ukase which he calls an injunction against anybody or everybody, as may suit his pleasure, forbidding anything he sees fit to forbid, and which the law does not forbid, for when the law forbids a thing there is no need for an injunction.

When laws are violated provision is made for punishment, and if found to be inadequate, remedial legislation may readily be secured. But the injunction judge assumes the prerogative to forbid anything which whim, prejudice or caprice may suggest, and his order must be obeyed, and any person disregarding this injunction is arrested, dragged to the point where the court is held, not on

a charge of violating any law, but for being guilty of contempt of court, and instead of being tried by jury as guaranteed by the Constitution, not in conformity with any statute law, but by the judge whose dignity he is charged with having offended, and by the same judge summarily sent to prison.

It is time for the people of these United States to realize the dangers that are threatening our liberties; it is not alone organized labor that is affected, but every citizen in whatever walk of life that is interested in the maintenance of a government by, for and of the people.

Referring to decisions of the Supreme Court, in his first inaugural address, President Lincoln said: "The candid citizen must confess that if the policy of the government, upon vital questions affecting the whole people, is to be irre-

vocably fixed by decisions of the Supreme Court, the instant they are made, as in ordinary litigation between parties in personal actions, the people will have ceased to be their own rulers, having, to the extent, practically resigned their government into the hands of that eminent tribunal."

Are we ready to complete the American oligarchy by resigning our government into the hands of the Supreme Court? We believe not, and to prevent further usurpation of our rights, aye, to restore all that we have been robbed of, we shall stand unfalteringly for equal rights for all and special privileges for none, and, as did the fathers more than a hundred years ago, declare that we are free and independent people, and refuse to bow the knee to any authority established contrary to the expressed will of the people.

JUST TO GET BACK AT THE OTHER FELLOW.

One of the great drawbacks to the advancement of the trade union movement, and one that brings it into contempt so often with the public generally, and gives ammunition to those who are continually seeking the downfall of organized labor, is the fact that in its affairs there is such a constant question of authority and discipline, and so much bickering among individual members. The trouble seems to be owing to so much jealousy and selfishness being injected into union affairs, and these two causes, we believe, are responsible for many of the unpleasant conditions that so many unions and executive committees of our international union are confronted with. We can safely assert, without fear of contradiction, that opposition, based on personal animosities, simply goes on and on, until the unions and individuals thereof opposing each other can see no good whatever in any measure that may be introduced, and usually, conditions become such that the chain of brotherhood, which should bind all together, is broken in two, and no matter what the other fellow or union suggest, whether there is merit in it or not, it is knocked on general principles, just to get back at Brother So and So, who, in turn, does his knocking when the opportunity presents itself and there you are. Truly it is a pitiable condition.

We want bigger hearts, bigger and broader minds, and a truer conception of our duty toward one another. The ethics of our movement, which, we regret to say, are very often overlooked, teach higher principles. We are each under a moral obligation to secure for ourselves and posterity the greatest of blessings and happiness that it is possible to attain in

this world; to be kinder, and more tolerant of one another; to agree to disagree, and to recognize and support even those whom we may consider our bitterest enemies in the views and measures which they may present for the advancement of our cause, when we can clearly see merit in them, in place of that blind, selfish spirit that knocks just for the sake of knocking, and for fear the other fellow will reap some advantage or glory. In the trade union movement there is glory enough for all. If we would be up and doing we must get rid of our personal prejudices, and keep down that overabundance of selfishness with which we are all more or less endowed. Let us each be constructive and not sit idly back waiting to pounce on the other fellow because he may (in our opinion) be a little too active, and trying to lord it over others, as it were. It may be that it is only his way, and that after all the interest of the unions generally is what is uppermost in his mind.—Bricklayer and Mason.

Mrs. Benham—Henry. I am more than glad you don't drink now, but how did you come to leave it off?

Benham—You remember the last time your mother was here?

Well, one night while she was here I came home in pretty bad shape and saw three of her. That settled it.

"Archie is fairly going crazy over his new motor."

"That's strange. Every time I've seen him he was going crazy under it."—Ex.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Pittsburg No. 5.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

In a few more hours the year of 1908 will pass into history, and with it, I trust, will go the ill-fortune that trailed in the paths of organized labor during the past year.

The majority of our Brotherhood knew of the long drawn out battle of No. 5 which lasted for ten months, and to my knowledge the Grand Office has never been officially notified that hostilities are now at an end. It is all over now and when we look back it makes us feel as if we had experienced a horrible "nightmare." A great many people thought the difficulty could have been avoided. We were condemned on various occasions for entering a difficulty during a time of financial and industrial depression, but we can conscientiously say the trouble was none of our creating. We had agreed with the contractors upon an agreement and everything seemed "rosy" until the last few days—then they (contractors) saw their advantage and at once declared "open shop." The fight was on; it was a bitter struggle. It continued for months without any great advantage to either side. What little work they had was costing them enormous sums to have it completed; they had a cordon of "beef stew detectives" protecting their non-union men, and in many cases employed the services of uniformed officers, the object of which was nothing more or less than to put the organization in a bad light before the public. They had a number of us arrested on fictitious charges and secured indictments before the grand jury on the testimony of a second Harry Orchard, but they don't seem to be very anxious to rush any of them now. They have very little confidence themselves in the calibre of their "important" witness or they would not let the matter remain dormant so long. Our accused men would gladly welcome a trial, and feel confident that the outcome would be a complete vindication. We desire to thank the Local Unions who came to our financial assistance, but we felt aggrieved to think that our Grand Office "could not" do anything for us. In the face of the tremendous odds that our men battled against, I must say they fought like true soldiers. Some of them who were comfortably situated soon

found themselves in absolute want, but they did not murmur, they did not rob, they did not steal, and at the close of the strike (when human endurance could withstand the strife no longer) we found our whole labor system revolutionized, as might be expected, but the men went uncomplainingly to work and whenever they could lend a helping hand to their less fortunate brothers with the firm belief that the cause for which they so nobly fought was not lost, could not be lost, for they were the principals on which the fathers had built the Republic. They still believe that the very throne of Jehovah was pledged that right will triumph and liberty live.

Fraternally,

J. P. K.

Peoria No. 34.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As there has not been a letter in the WORKER from Local No. 34 for many a month past, I will endeavor to write one and let you know how things are going.

We had installation of officers last Monday night and the following officers were installed: R. W. Marlatt, President; Joe Kahlen, Vice President; F. W. Mattlin, Recording Secretary; W. Reed, First Inspector; J. W. Conger, Treasurer; R. L. Baker, Financial Secretary; E. Johnson, Foreman; H. Halligan, Second Inspector; Geo. Akers, Trustee; W. Green, Trustee.

After the meeting the entertainment committee had a surprise ready for the boys and the brothers that did not show up at the meeting certainly missed something. There were plenty of cigars to smoke and some goods things to eat and drink.

Some of the brothers entertained us with some fine music and singing. Bro. Lidle done a few turns with the bones and singing; Bro. Mattlin with the frog dance; Bro. Marlatt with a clog dance; Bro. Marlatt's father kept the boys going with the violin. Most all the brothers done a turn to keep the ball rolling.

Ex-Bro. Patton was there with a bunch of stories that will hold them for a while.

Local No. 34 has about 75 members in good standing at the present time. We have most all the men doing electric work in the city in the Local. There are a few ex-members that went to the bad when we asked for more money and got

it last year, and they are still to the bad. Some of them have tried to get back in, but they didn't succeed. They will all have to come some before they get in, and it won't be long until they will all be trying hard to work their way back in. From all reports it has been a losing game with the employers that are holding up these bad actors.

All the brothers are working at present, but are expecting work to be slack for the next couple of months.

If this escapes the waste basket, I will try again.

Faternally,

W. E. WOLGAMOTT,
Press Secretary.

Syracuse No. 43.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Well! Well! Well! Here is No. 43 once more. Yes, we have returned to earth after a strike and lockout lasting about three months. But we come out with colors a-flying and a full organized town, and a two year agreement of \$3.75 wage scale for this year and \$4.00 for next year. Not so bad, I guess, during the "depression."

Brother James J. Reid spent considerable time and patience with us and we all know he is a pastmaster in handling strikes and dealing with contractors.

Brother L. L. Donnelly also rendered us valuable assistance during our trouble. He is now a resident, when he is home, of our town and wears a Syracuse smile, with a good story up his sleeve. However, our "genial Jimmie" hasn't made a reputation as an undertaker.

No. 43 elected a new set of officers, with us as the "dub" to do the scribbling, which you can see is very rummy.

The new officers are:

G. H. Errengy, president.

H. M. Greenwood, vice president.

S. D. Younglove, treasurer.

E. A. Cleadwick, financial secretary.

William Welch, recording secretary.

Al Becker, G. Gersbecker, F. W. Anson, trustees.

John Kerwin, business agent.

G. H. Errengy, press secretary.

Postoffice box No. 416.

Work in Syracuse just now is fairly good for inside men, but would not advise any brothers to come this way looking for any big jobs, as there are none in Syracuse at present, and little prospects for the winter.

The Grim Reaper has visited the homes of Brothers Rippley and Ames, and taken in each case a loving child.

Committees have drawn the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, Divine Providence has deemed it wise to remove by death the only

infant daughter of Brother Theron A. Ames; be it

Resolved, That we extend to him in his hour of bereavement our deepest sympathy; also, be it

Resolved, That a copy be entered on the minutes of our Union, and a copy be sent the bereaved parents.

(Signed) E. F. WICKS.

A. YOA.

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom to call from the home of our esteemed Brother Clarence Ripley, his infant daughter, Cora B. Ripley; and,

WHEREAS, We mourn with our brother the loss of one whom in life he held dear, and whose spirit it has pleased God to call to the life beyond the grave; therefore be it further

Resolved, That we, as a union, in brotherly love pay tribute to her memory by expressing our sorrow at their loss and extend to Brother Ripley, relatives and friends our deepest sympathy in their bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of this local, and a copy be sent to our bereaved brother, and a copy to our official journal for publication.

(Signed) F. A. CHADWICK.

C. F. BROWN,

G. B. WARNER.

Hoping to have something more interesting next time, I will close, wishing all members and the I. B. success.

I remain fraternally,

T. H. ERRENGY, Press Secy.

Local No. 43, Syracuse, N. Y.

Buffalo No. 45.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The joyful time of the year being at hand, when man momentarily relaxes his hold on strenuous affairs of life and allows for a brief period those higher and better elements of his life to predominate, we, the members of Local 45, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, convey to each and every brother of the Order our warmest wishes for a happy holiday season. No doubt there are many who have felt the blighting touch of misfortune, but we trust each of them will join hands and enter into the get-together class, with a light heart and good fellowship to one another.

The following are the officers elected for the ensuing term: President, Jas. Weger; Vice President, H. H. Stickney; Recording Secretary, F. H. Lamme; Financial Secretary, J. E. McCadden; Press Secretary, A. Cunningham; Treasurer, H. J. Mallaney; 1st Inspector, H. Juyler; 2d Inspector, B. Rote; Foreman, W. R. McLean; Trustees, A. Farry, J. Marrion, B. Earl; Delegates to United and Labor

Councils, A. Cunningham, T. McDougal, B. Rete, H. Mallaney.

Hoping this will find space in the next issue of our journal.

Yours fraternally,

A. CUNNINGHAM,
Press Secretary.

Warren No. 63.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As no one has heard from Local No. 63 in some time and the brothers have honored me with the office of Press Secretary, I will try to start the new year right by having a letter in the January number of the WORKER. Things are rather quiet all around Warren, as usual. None of the companies are employing only enough men to maintain their plants. Last meeting night we elected a new set of officers, which are as follows: President, E. P. Phelps; Vice President, Callen James; Financial Secretary, Gus Keller; Recording Secretary, Harvey Davis; Treasurer, Robert Grey; Foreman, Bro. Arnold; Inspector, Bro. Grey; Trustees, Callen James, 18 months; Bro. Arnold, 12 months; Bro. H. Davis, 6 months; Press Secretary, E. P. Phelps.

It seems as if it was almost impossible to get the boys all out except when we have a blow-out of some kind, but sincerely hope they will make more of an effort to attend meetings, as No. 63 is sadly in need of better conditions, and the only way we will get them is to all of us get busy and boost, not knock.

Local No. 63 is trying to put a new set of by-laws into execution and of course this is creating some excitement among the brothers.

The members of No. 63 are somewhat in doubt as to whether we have a District Organizer in this district and hope he will see this little letter and try to get over this way and try to encourage the boys a little.

Well, I guess this is about all for this time, as I am afraid I will get an overload and blow a fuse if I don't stop.

Hoping success to the Brotherhood at large,

Yours fraternally,

E. P. P.,
Press Secretary.

Butte No. 65.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The following resolutions were adopted by Local No. 65:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Him who ruleth all things to call from our midst our beloved brother, Arthur G. Flint, who died from injuries received Nov. 5, while performing his duties.

WHEREAS, The Local has suffered the loss of an honored brother and officer, who was kind hearted, who left a record full of honor, and who never allowed his

duties as a foreman to impair the soul of brotherly love, which was his; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the removal of such a brother leaves a vacancy that will be deeply felt by all the members of the Local and his friends; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of Local No. 65, I. B. E. W., do hereby extend to his relatives our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter for a period of thirty days and a copy of these resolutions be placed upon the minutes of this Local and a copy be sent to the bereaved family and one to our official journal for publication.

Yours fraternally,

E. A. McLEAN,
A. S. WORTMAN,
R. BAKER,

Members of Resolution Committee.

Butte No. 65.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The following resolutions were adopted by Local Union No. 65:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Him who ruleth all things to call from our midst our beloved brother, Arthur G. Flint, who died from injuries received Nov. 15 while performing his duties.

WHEREAS, The Local has suffered the loss of an honored brother and officer, who was kind hearted, who left a record full of honor, and who never allowed his duties as a foreman to impair the soul of brotherly love, which was his; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the removal of such a brother leaves a vacancy that will be deeply felt by all the members of the Local and his friends; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the members of Local No. 65, I. B. E. W., do hereby extend to his relations our deepest sympathy in their sad bereavement; and be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter for a period of thirty days and a copy of these resolutions be placed upon the minutes of this Local, and a copy be sent to the bereaved family and one to our official journal for publication.

Yours fraternally,

E. A. McLEAN,
A. S. WORTMAN,
R. BAKER,

Members of Resolution Committee.

Rock Island No. 109.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Now that Christmas has come and gone, and the new year of 1909 will soon arrive, I hope all brothers will forget all

personal and other grievances, and settle down to work for the cause for which they pay dues.

It is high time they were doing it, as they see now what a few can do to disrupt the I. B.

I do not mean to infer that any one has committed an injustice, nor uphold any that may be so accused, but I do insist that if all Locals and members at large had shown just a little (it would need much) bit of interest, we would not be mixed up in such a tangle as we are. Now every one wants the puzzle worked out, but don't want to help. This concerns you and me, stay away, and indifference just as much as any one. The thing to do now is to start working on both sides and not let up until we are sure everything is straight and in running order once more, then keep on working and see that it stays that way. Think of this, brothers, this is getting more serious every day; it cannot be hurried to a termination too soon. It matters not what you think about it, but it means justice to all concerned, that at once.

Now that Taft is to be our president, and the dull season is about over, you will soon realize the above proposition.

As to work here, we are still living; all brothers at work, as far as I know, but there is no rush just now. But there are prospects for summer, as the People's Light in Davenport, Iowa, intend going under ground there and a new interurban line to be built out of here.

And, Bro. Editor, I will say last but by no means least, I enclose a photo of G. G. (Grant) Guinn, who last year deserted his wife and children, leaving them six cents and other bills too numerous to mention. But all this did not come to light until Mrs. Guinn appealed to the Local for aid, and since that time No. 109 has been trying to locate the gentleman. So, please insert this and the picture in the WORKER so all brothers may know what kind of a man he is. In my mind and all who heard of this he is not worthy to be called a man. I can not express myself in regard to the cur in terms eligible to print, so will close, hoping the brothers who read this can infer my meaning.

Wishing the Brotherhood and all true brothers a happy New Year, I am,

Fraternally,

B. A. STEPHENS.
Press Secretary.

Los Angeles No. 116.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I don't think L. U. No. 116 has had a letter in the WORKER since, well, I am ashamed to say. But then we are still doing business in the same old way, and if it were not for some of the old steadies

we would have a hard time to get along.

There seems to be lots of work going on, and it looks like there was, but it is nearly all small cottages, etc., and between two trade schools, that do contracting, and the curbstoner that carries his shop around with his material on a bicycle, and the non-union man, and the snowbirds, that only try to make a living while here, well you have to go some to get there at all.

Our membership has not been going up much of late on account of the organizing of a new Local in Los Angeles. The new Local, No. 628, seems to be getting along nicely and getting in quite a number of new members. But there is still lots of outside men to get before we are organized like we ought to be.

One thing more, brothers: When you come to Los Angeles with a traveling card, don't forget to come down to the Labor temple, on the first Tuesday after you land and deposit your card. Now, brothers, you would be surprised at the number of men that land in this city with good cards, good union men at home, and work from a week to six months, and then leave without ever depositing their card, or else let it lapse if they stay. They don't seem to think it matters when they get out here where you can't make them be good.

I was talking to a member only last week and asked him if he had his card in either Local, and he said he did not see why it was necessary as he had only been in Los Angeles about six weeks and only worked about two and did not think it was necessary; and when you do come be sure to bring your pocket book, as people will get hungry, even in sunny California.

Any brothers coming this way will receive a hearty welcome from 116 any meeting night he may call at the new Labor temple.

Fraternally,

W. H. McDONALD,
Recording Secretary No. 116.

San Francisco No. 151.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

At our election, held on Thursday evening, Dec. 30, the following brothers were elected to look after the interest of No. 151 for the coming six months: G. D. Ripley, President; W. W. Barden, Vice President; J. A. Himmel, Financial Secretary and Business Agent; A. R. Blue, Recording Secretary; Geo. Durham, 1st Inspector; S. T. Dixon, 2d Inspector; E. Toothaker, Foreman; C. C. Holmes, Treasurer; F. A. Monaghan, P. Bungard and W. J. Mozan, Trustees.

The conditions in San Francisco are good, but we could stand better times.

The Home Telephone Company is building the town.

L. U. No. 151 is trying to organize all the telephone men working for the Bell company, and we are meeting with a great deal of success.

Wishing the officers and members a successful New Year, I am,

Fraternally,

JAMES A. HIMMEL.

Beaumont No. 221.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Enclosed you will find resolutions of respect of our late Bro. Chas. Manning, which have been adopted by Local No. 221. Please publish same in next issue of the ELECTRICAL WORKER.

Yours fraternally,

ROBT. RAMEY.

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, to remove from our midst our late Brother, Charles Manning, and

WHEREAS, The fraternal relations held by our deceased brother with the members of this Local renders it proper that we show our respect and regard for him, and that we enter on our records our appreciation of his service as a member and a brother and his merit as a man; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the sudden removal of such a brother from our midst leaves a vacancy and a shadow that will be deeply felt by all the members, and that this Local tender its sincerest sympathy to the relatives of our deceased brother in their sad affliction, and be it further

Resolved, That while we bow in humble submission to the will of the Most High, we do not the less mourn for our lost brother who has been called from labor to rest, and be it further

Resolved, That our charter be draped for a period of thirty days, in testimony of the respect and esteem in which our late brother was held by his fellow members; that a copy of the resolutions be spread on the minutes of the Local and that a copy be sent to his family in their bereavement, and that a copy be sent our official journal for publication.

L. F. ENERING,
WM. URGUHART,
ROBT. RAMEY,
L. M. TAYLOR,
OSCAR ACKERMAN.

Ashland No. 255.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

As it has been some time since I got a write-up in the Worker, I will try and spend a little of my time by doing something of that sort now. Brother Hawley Mitchell and myself have been away on a toll line job for over a month and I

don't know what's been going on, but from now on I'll be better posted for news.

Yes, the Ashland Home Telephone Co. have been going over their toll lines and that kept me out of town. Bro. Hans Johnson took out a traveling card and has gone west. Whoever lands him, use him right, as he is true blue. Oh, yes, I forgot, Bro. William Brunses of Mellen was also on the toll line job with us and we found him a very handy fellow. Most of the time we dined out, and of course had to have a cook. Well, he was the one. He's there when it comes to cooking. I am pretty good myself, but am not in it when he's around. Bro. Mitchell was our skinner and he certainly could cut 'er some.

Bro. Hawley was the guy that done them up brown, and he was there with the mixing sticks. As for myself, I was the water boy. Nothing doing for me as I was always on the water wagon. Oh, yes, I fell off at Phillips, and, gee! I made an awful splash, and "Ed Mitch," he was with me too.

We arrived in Ashland just in time to find Brothers Smith and Robinson out deer hunting. They say Arlie is there with the big shoot, but by the report that came in I don't think he was there this time. And as for Walter, he's a better pool player than a hunter.

I wonder what's the matter with Bro. Jno. Welton? Hello John, what's the matter; is it getting too cold in Bayfield? Stick to her, don't get cold feet. We've had pretty nice weather so far, but expect to get a package handed to us any old time. No. 255 is making ready for another big dance, but not right away. Will give a full account of it in the next Worker. Work is shy in our line, so keep away.

Wishing all the locals at large a prosperous new year, I remain

Fraternally yours,

S. J. TALASKAR,
Press Secretary.

Albuquerque No. 306.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

I am now in New Mexico, and will try and write to let the brothers in the "U. S. A." know we are still in the land of the living.

I am working for the "Light" here now, doing line work. Business is fine, I don't think.

Bro. Al. Chism, one of the "old timers," was here, but blew to parts unknown, as business was too dull.

I noticed a fine large letter from Bro. Norris, of Tulsa, Okla., saying they had succeeded in raising the scale to \$3.50. Good for Tulsa. I had my card in 584 last summer, and a finer bunch you never met.

Frank Davidson, the F. S., is one of the largest contractors in the "city," and is a card man for sure. If all contractors were like him in regard to wages we would all be fine and dandy.

I am glad to hear of Bro. Norris getting a vacation. How is the young line-man? Some of the boys made a miniature pair of climbers, straps and all, and presented them to Bro. Norris' baby boy; then we voted to give him a card in the Local. How is that for a starter? If the "kid" is not the real stuff when he grows, he can't say he was not started right.

Any of the brothers who might happen in Tulsa will find them just as Bro. Norris stated in the WORKER, ready to help a brother if he has the "goods."

I was also in No. 619, Amarillo, Tex., this summer and found a fine bunch and the young Local is all O. K.

"Scottie," another old timer, was here since I have been here, but he did not stick long. He got enough silver to make a few "Mulligans" and blowed.

Listen: Did you ever hear of a line-man comedian? Well, if you were here last week you would had that "pleasure." I was all in, down and out, and nothing doing in the trade, I fell back on the show business. I worked a week at the Crystal theatre doing my stunt. The act took good (that is, it took a good man to dodge the cabbage and eggs).

The Postal is going to rebuild their city lines here soon, so I guess we floaters can grab a few weeks at that.

Speaking about good bunches and Locals, I am going to tell you where I am from formerly. If any of you have been there you know what kind of bunch there is there. Now if you will promise not to take a shot at me the next time you see me, I will tell you—No. 48, Shawnee, Okla. Any of the old timers know about it. Nuf said. Thank the Lord I am not of that bunch now. There are three or four good fellows there, but the rest are punk for the monkeys.

With best regards to all the brothers in dear old U. S. A., and hoping Bro. Norris kills a bear on his hunting trip, I am as ever,

Yours fraternally,

T. O. DRUMMOND.

P. S.—New Mexico is not considered in the United States. Better known as the home of the "Lungers."

Sioux Falls No. 360.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

It has been some time since any word has been sent out pertaining to our Local Union, and I think some of the other brothers would be interested in hearing from us.

About four months ago the older brothers got busy and started in to boost No. 360 and, judging from appearances, they have been very successful so far. In this short time about twenty new members have joined us and new applications have been coming in at every meeting.

The most recent electrical improvement in our city is the completion of a very fine light and power plant, situated just below the falls. The Light and Power company have several gangs of men employed constructing new leads throughout the city and a very large majority of these workers are representatives of our Local.

The Federation of Labor has recently adopted an idea, originating among our brothers, to establish a meeting place with a library, bath and assembly room, thus making an attractive as well as an educational labor hall.

Our first meeting of the new year was devoted to the installation of officers and under the head of "New Business," an active part was taken by all members in a big feed and smoker.

In behalf of No. 360, I wish all of our brothers a very prosperous and happy New Year.

Yours fraternally,

EUGENE WALKER,

Press Secretary.

Reno No. 401.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

The following resolutions were passed at our regular meeting of the Electrical Workers' Union No. 401, I. B. E. W.:

WHEREAS, Almighty God in his infinite wisdom has deemed it wise to remove from among us our esteemed Brother, Edward E. Carney; and,

WHEREAS, Brother Carney's demise was sudden and unexpected as he was electrocuted while at work on a pole; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the death of Brother Carney, the Union has lost a member whose obligation always stood supreme, therefore we feel that this union has lost one of its most loyal members; be it further

Resolved, That we extend to the stricken relatives our fullest sympathy, trusting that an omnipotent God will send them strength and comfort; also, be it

Resolved, That we, the committee, recommend that our charter be draped for a period of thirty days, and a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes, and a copy be sent to our deceased brother's relatives, and one to our official journal for publication.

B. M. GREENWOOD,

DEE WHIPPLE,

H. S. GALLOWAY.

Committee.

Pasadena No. 418.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Brothers: Considerable is being said concerning conventions. Some are telling all they know that happened at a recent convention held in St. Louis. Others are talking about what they think will happen if another convention is legally held; others are asking the reasons of so many conventions being held so near the same date, and at the same place. No doubt there are many members of the I. B. E. W. asking themselves the same question, but the question is, where are we at? In fact we are at a point where we should hold a legal convention and during its session reorganize, amend our Constitution, and in that Constitution embody the proper laws for the government of our organization. First make laws to govern our conventions; second, laws to govern our Grand Officers; third, laws to govern our Locals.

There are, of course, many matters to be considered, some of which may seem very difficult to adjust satisfactorily to every member of our organization.

I have my ideas as to what would be best to embody in our Constitution; other members have their ideas, but I think we are all willing to adopt a Constitution and laws that will be best for the government of our organization.

I would like to inquire how many of our members have read the Constitution as amended at the ninth biennial convention held in Louisville, Ky., Sept. 18 to 28, 1905? How many of our members have read a copy of the Constitution as amended at the recent convention held in St. Louis, Mo., and last I wish to inquire which will you be governed by?

From information obtained through the press it appears that a step in the right direction was taken at Denver and if put into effect will settle the matter which is being discussed by our members.

There is no reason why our organization should not be the strongest labor organization in the world. All we have to do is to make it the strongest and best labor organization in the world. The right way is—first, make our Constitution and laws so perfect that when a person joins our organization the benefits connected with it will be such that none will desire to leave it.

We are a young organization compared to many others who have been successful and we can be if we will. All we have to do is to get together, make our laws and enforce them.

Thanking the editor for the space and the reader for his time, I will close by asking, what are your views?

A MEMBER OF 418.

San Bernardino No. 477.

The following resolutions have been adopted by Local No. 477 on the death of Brother T. J. Linehan:

WHEREAS, It has pleased Almighty God in His infinite wisdom, to remove from our midst our esteemed friend and brother; and,

WHEREAS, In view of the loss sustained by us in the decease of our friend and associate, who has always been a staunch member, and the still greater loss sustained by those near and dear to him, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we sincerely console with the relatives of the deceased, in the dispensation of Divine Providence, and that the heartfelt testimonial of our sympathy and sorrow be forwarded to the relatives of our friend and brother; and, be it further

Resolved, That we drape our charter in mourning for a period of sixty days in memory of our deceased brother, and a copy of these resolutions be recorded in our minute book; a copy sent our official journal for publication, and a copy be sent to the relatives of our late brother.

B. F. HIMES,
HERMAN DEROLPH,
S. C. REED.

Minneapolis No. 597.

EDITOR ELECTRICAL WORKER:

Since I have been elected as Press Secretary, I will endeavor to make a start in the line of duty that falls to a Press Secretary.

We held our election of officers for the ensuing term last meeting night as follows: President, S. G. Dyer; Vice President, Moody Williams; Financial Secretary, E. J. Broberg, Recording Secretary, E. O. Smith; Treasurer, A. Arme; 1st Inspector, Geo. Barnes; Foreman, T. Sampson; 2d Inspector, John Wick; Trustee, 18 months, Frank Fisher; Delegate to T. and L., Broberg, Fisher and Dyer. All the above were duly installed tonight except Bro. Fisher, who has gone home for a short visit, but we will land him upon his return.

But that isn't all. Local 597 gave their first annual ball (ball at Pippel) Jan. 1, 1909, and it was a decided success and we made a little money; by the way, we are working up a reputation for good dances and they get bigger all the time.

Am sorry to say that on Jan. 5, 1909, Bro. P. J. Malone asked for and was granted a withdrawal card. He got laid off from the N. W. Tel. Co. and went to his home town and bought a headache dispensary, and any brothers with a paid up card going through Montgomery.

Minn., can get a drink if he does a good job on the slobber boxes. What? You don't know where Montgomery is. Sure, faith, ain't it in Minnesota?

I will have to report all the brothers well and working who are not sick and laid off.

But if you come this way, pay up your card before you start, and you will travel with the only society in Minneapolis, the I. B. E. W., and when you have a clear card and clear conscience and paid up card, you are sure welcome and happy because you are welcome.

I don't know what kind of a P. S. I will make, but I will leave that to the readers of your valuable journal to decide.

All I got to say, brothers, is remember the password and your obligations, and you will sit in the right place.

Just a word or two to the brothers of all Locals. Stop and think what the sisters in Stockton, Cal., are trying to do for us. Get out and help them by organizing a local in your own town or city and thereby help yourselves and all men.

Shake hands, Ladies of I. B. E. W. No. 1, Stockton, with me and I am with you first, last and all the time.

Well, will close for now, and please, mister, don't put this in the waste basket. It is 20 below zero and still going down at 11:30 p. m.

Yours fraternally,

Doc, Press Secretary.

MINNESOTA PRIEST AGAINST INJUNCTION.

Father John A. Ryan, author of "A Living Wage," and professor of Ethics and Economics in St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., delivered the Labor Day address at a union labor picnic at Cedar Lake last Monday, in the course of which he declared that the courts of the country frequently abuse their powers in issuing injunctions against organized labor. Continuing he said:

"Were there no labor unions in America, we should have no Labor Day celebrations. Without the unions the great majority of wage workers would still be obliged to toil twelve hours or more per day; there would be little or no legislation protecting women workers or restricting child labor, conciliation and arbitration would be all but unknown, and wages in most occupations would be considerably lower than they are today. No secular movement known to history records more perseverance and self-sacrifice or has to its credit more beneficent results than this movement of the organized toilers. From its beginnings down to the present hour, it has been obliged to contend with a public opinion and a body of legal traditions which were either openly hostile or coldly indifferent.

"This attitude and this tradition have been a very serious obstacle, much more serious than the careless observer realizes, to the organized labor movement, and particularly to its demand that employers should negotiate on an equal footing with their employees. Perhaps the most vexatious and most discouraging phase of this unfriendly environment of doctrines and traditions is seen in our legislation and especially in the application of the laws by the courts. The old common law of conspiracy has been utilized

to prevent strikes and other concerted movements of the workers, and even to forbid their entrance into unions.

"Any class or group of men that neglects to make known its legal grievances in an organized and systematic way will itself be neglected by the lawmakers. Finally, the spirit and management of the unions need to become more liberal and more honest. This does not mean that there is less liberality or less honesty in the unions than in other groups or associations. Against the physical force methods of the union may be set the bribery and extortions of business. There are grafting, tyranny and monopolistic practices in the unions, but not more than in finance, business or the public service. If labor unionists sometimes act hastily and sometimes attempt to get something for nothing, they will not have to look far for similar actions in the world around them, and in circles that ought to set them a better example. The members of the labor unions have a plentiful supply of the same human nature as other men. But at the present time they stand to gain even more than other men by the elimination of all practices which savor of narrowness, unfairness and dishonesty."

"Papa" was becoming impatient at the lateness of the hour when he remarked: "I can't see why that young fellow who is calling on Minnie hasn't sense enough to go home. It's near midnight."

"The dear little brother" of the family just then came in, heard his father's remark, and ventured some light:

"He can't go, father. Sister's sitting on him."—Ex.

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California Bakersfield 428 Chico 542 Fresno 169 Los Angeles 61 Los Angeles 116 Los Angeles 370 Monterey 545 Oakland 595 Oakland 283 Pasadena 418 Pasadena 560 Richmond 473 Sacramento 36 Sacramento 340 San Bernardino 477 San Diego 465 San Francisco 13 San Francisco 404 San Francisco 537 San Jose 250 San Rafael 614 San Mateo 617 Santa Barbara 451 Santa Cruz 526 Santa Rosa 594 Stockton 207 Stockton 591 Vallejo 180 Los Angeles 489	Massachusetts Boston 30 Boston 103 Boston 104 Boston 396 Brookton 223 Lawrence 385 Fall River 437 Lowell 588 Lynn 377 New Bedford 224 Pittsfield 264 Quincy 189 Salem 259 Springfield 7 Springfield 566 Worcester 96	Michigan Alpena 569 Ann Arbor 171 Battle Creek 445 Bay City 150 Detroit 17 Detroit 18 Detroit 17 Detroit 553 Detroit 607 Grand Rapids 75 Grand Rapids 231 Jackson 205 Lansing 352 Marquette 407 Marquette 145 Traverse City 131 Muskegon 275	New Hampshire Berlin 585 Portsmouth 426	New Jersey Atlantic City 210 Camden 239 Hackensack 422 Jersey City 15 Jersey City 164 Long Branch 331 Morristown 551 Newark 52 Newark 87 Newark 180 Newark 567 Paterson 102 Perth Amboy 358 Plainfield 262 Trenton 29
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“VOX POPULI, VOX DEI.”

BY THE REV. CHARLES STELZLE.

IT has long been acknowledged that “the voice of the people is the voice of God.” The undiscerning may hear in the people's voice only a great roar of discontent, or the mutterings of the misguided mass. But he who has understanding will hear the “still, small voice,” which speaks the will of God.

The statesmen in every age who have accomplished the things which have produced the greatest good for all the people, got their inspiration because they kept close to the masses. Rarely does the vision come to the man who spends all of his time in the seclusion of the study. His touch on life is so slight, and his understanding of the needs of men so inadequate, that his outlook extends only to the limits of his own life and his own narrow experience. It is only as a man comes into contact with others that his own life becomes larger and fuller, and it is out of this fullness that he is enabled to speak concerning the greater problems of life.

No class of men have a broader experience than the “common people”—no class knows quite so well what it means to toil and to suffer and to sacrifice. None have higher aspirations and none exhibit deeper consecration. It is because of this that God speaks through them.

Sometimes their expression of God's will is crude. Sometimes it comes as a

shock to men who have become accustomed to things as they are, who, quite satisfied with present conditions, are unwilling to be made uncomfortable by a change which may mean a readjustment in their method of living and in their way of doing business. But to stand in the way of progress is futile. It may be that it is necessary to oppose certain features—man-made and man-inspired—which have crept into the plans which the people present, but back of them all and beneath them all will be found the hand of God.

This has been proven in history. In every great fight for the right and for progress, the leisured classes, the so-called upper classes, have been on the wrong side of the battle-field. The common people—the men of uncommon sense—to these the world owes a debt of gratitude.

If you would hear the voice of God, keep close to the people.

“You say you left home on the tenth?” asked the lawyer.

“Yes, sir,” replied the witness.

“And came back on the twenty-fifth?”

“Yes, sir.”

“What were you doing in the interim?”

“Never was in that place.”—Ex.